

THE ATKINS DIET DEBATE | YOU'VE GOT SPAM

MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | www.macleans.ca

FEBRUARY 23 2004

Scandalous!

Paul Martin
confronts
Jean Chrétien's
\$250-million
mess. Will
voters make
him pay?



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A ONE-PARTY DEMOCRACY

Jean Chrétien wanted to win in Quebec in the worst way. That's exactly what he did.

IN THE LATE 1980s, when I was based in the old Soviet Union, I had a Russian friend who was a devout but flexible member of the Communist party. He used to argue passionately that communism provided the only alternative his country needed, because it formed a big tent under which people of all sorts of value systems could gather together. The Communist party, he said, was capable of transformation; all that really mattered

ultimately was that it remain in power. To that end, it would periodically change direction, renounce its past, replace its leadership, and do whatever else seemed necessary to survive and thrive. The other defining link throughout was that the needs of the people and the country were presumed to be interchangeable and identical: what was good for one was automatically presumed to be good for all.

I used to tell him that in a democracy, such spurious logic would never fly—but these days, as a Canadian, it's better to stay quiet. We've often seen scandals and name-calling in Ottawa over the years—but few scandals of the magnitude of the new revelations of Liberal profligacy under Jean Chrétien, and none where the most unscrupulous slinging comes from members of the same party. As John Godebout reports (page 88), "by blaming the issue on an extension of his long-standing feud with Chrétien, Martin made this a scandal unlike any other." But conservative noteworthies have greeted the governing party's actions with open scorn. The one now has the additional distinction of a massive split between Liberals.

Beyond the breathtaking scale of profligacy, the real crisis lies in the damage the Liberals have done to the entire political process as well as to themselves. Martin was imprudent in detailing just the government will take to deal with past abuses—but far less so in making clear who he knew and when he knew it. Perhaps his most appropriate punishment, then, would be for voters to actually accept his explanation that—despite being in Quebec, the man in charge of government spending and the second most powerful person in government—he had little idea of exactly what was going on around him. Ignorance on that scale is

“The needs of the party and the country are presumed to be identical. What's good for one is thus good for all.”

hardly an inspiring quality in a leader. Similarly, the worst punishment for Martin isn't necessarily the fury that this episode provokes among ordinary Canadians—but rather the possibility that in the long term, people living and write it off as “typical” Or

Marion, filled with plans for an entire agenda, might not be able to become a revolving door so he will be off as irrelevant. Chrétien always wanted to see in Quebec in the worst way—so he did just that, lending us new meaning to the phrase “profligate liberalism” for supporters within the province. He's thus given ideological neo-conservatives their best weapon in years. The biggest sin against the former PM until now was that he stayed several years longer than he should—and in doing so, tarnished his legacy. Now we learn that even if he'd gone a couple of years earlier, there would still be this stain on his record that time will never erase. Canada's version of democracy has seen much healthier periods than the present. And somewhere out there, my Russian friend is laughing himself silly.

Anthony Wilson-Smith

awilson@maclean.ca or comment on The Editor's column

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Waking the giant

George W. Bush is good, kind and decent man. He is also incredibly unshakable in the face of criticism ("Canadians to Bush: Hope you lose, eh?" Cover, Feb. 9). He will continue to do what he thinks is right regardless of his lack of popularity around the world.

Tatiana Garbush, Toronto, Ont.

Whatever happened to you Canadians? I remember Normandy, Anzio, D-Day, I believe. Now we get little reality-shows of guys writing about a great man trying to do a job after 3,000 of his fellow citizens were murdered. You Canadians are even feigning an army any more. What happened to a great people?

LARRY KELLY, New Orleans

As a retired U.S. soldier having served in George Bush's Gulf War, I am saddened by his son's "such an arrogant" attitude. I feel that any criticism of the current President Bush or the system is being met with an attitude of "you're unpatriotic" or "that's an American sentiment, when the approach is the case. Under this President we're not a war, pinned life and there's no end in sight."

MARCEL DUBOIS, Fort Rock, N.J.

It is easy to express outrage for the only remaining superpower, it is what we expect Bush to do. Get used to him.

Robert H. Bidd, Cleveland

Thank you for a pointed, honest—and funny—article concerning our glorious leader, the idiot George W. Bush. This is not the first time I have thought that Canadians have much more sense than the idiot American.

David Parker, Albuquerque, N.M.

Pratt's, eh?

Sharon Collins, Arlington, Va.

TASTING LOW-CARB BEER | A SOLDIER'S REMEMBRANCE

MACLEAN'S

CANADIANS TO BUSH: HOPE YOU LOSE, EH

EXCLUSIVE POLL
Only 15% of us support the President's invasion of Iraq. Here's why.

BY KATHY GATSON



You've got (hate) mail

We didn't learn much about you. Our Feb. 3 cover on Canadian sympathy for George W. Bush has generated an unprecedented response—more than 3,300 e-mails and countless letters. Here's what we have seen of the furor, where the letters will probably be posted publicly. We don't want to tell you what you think, but it's pretty obvious. Some say Canada has nothing to offer Bush or his policies. Others worry about a deterioration in U.S.-Canada relations. A few think of us as the last bastion of the free world. We say that we are the only country that will put in the effort to be as fair as possible to the people of the world.

Sharon Collins has a million words to say about our relationship with our neighbor who's already had enough trouble to our golfers and on the Iraq war, new this country's national magazine adds much to enjoy with a head line and story that can only serve to further alienate the very nation and people whom we should be supporting. Yet again I am forced to embarrassingly apologize to my valued American friends and business associates.

Peter Vais, Toronto

I have found my cover of "Hope you lose, eh" and it was hangs of my hallway for all

to see and admire. We proud Canadians have done away with our doubts, now it's time to get rid of the world's Antichrist.

Catherine Taylor, Ottawa, Ont.

We Canadians have a pretty good, don't we? When was the last time a terrorist flew a plane into a skyscraper on Bay Street? We are nice and easy at home watching our favourite American reality shows, drive our American cars to work in the American companies we work for, in order to pay for our vacations to Florida or Las Vegas. Our best industry is on the brink of extinction and we're desperate for the U.S. to stop its border controls, just think it's a good idea to keep telling George W. Bush and his government how much we hate them. We put them down for their enormous defence budget, yet we feel safe in our beds at night in the knowledge that they'll do everything they should to protect us even since the end of the Second World War, but still put in down every chance we get.

LEE BRIDGEMAN, Orleans, Ont.

When they are in colonies with other nations, power, commerce and religion are the real end of evil. If the Democrats lose, I

promise to move. New Zealand looks nice, but even Mongolia would do.

DET DEFENSE, St. George's Island, St.

I lived in Texas from 1999 to early 2003 and, believe me, he's even scarier up close.

Shelley McKelton, Halifax

I like President Bush's style and politics because he's a down home, straight shooter kind of guy, transparent and easy to figure out. I am not a politician these days. So what if he has to be Big Oil? Last time I checked, our high standard of living was directly dependent on oil and would collapse if the oil

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"You need to realize that you have declined to provide for your security, preferring to depend on the U.S. while you prattle on about lofty social goals." —*Mary McLachlan, Auburgnville, Mo.*

signs were turned off. Because I love our Western lifestyle very much I, for one, want those vast fields in the Middle East protected. We need a man like Bush in power to kick us and preserve the American way of life—because, like it or not, when America is under threat, so are we.

Malik High, Vancouver

President Bush has something Canadians know little about: the gas to make a decision.

Bruce Hyslop, Edmonton, Alta.

Ausland/Canadian and American citizens who has lived in the U.S. for 28 years, I feel that many Americans are "America-ists" and are ignorant or unconcerned about world opinion. From Bush's arrogance regarding the war in Iraq to his energy and environmental policies that will leave future generations bankrupt, this president is leading America on the wrong path.

Paul McCarley, Houston, Texas, USA

What were you thinking? To use such a cover just at a time that Canada was beginning to mend fences with the U.S. Here in New Brunswick we need the renowned experts and in the West they need the beef. We all know that the majority of Canadians do not think highly of the President, but you should have used discretion with that article.

Shirley Poyet, Prince Rock, B.C.

Count me among the 15 per cent who admire President Bush and support his re-election. Forgive me for admiring a man whose priority is protecting the citizens of his country and to a lesser extent those of the world's oppressed.

Michael Kostich, Toronto, Ont.

In spite of all the hatred, we remain the most forgiving nation on the planet. When earthquakes, wars, fires and catastrophes, we are there with blankets, water, food and rescue teams. When countries are equally attacked, we are there to defend the people and help them take back their country. When a country is faced with famine, we are there



Many Americans also hope that Bush lives

to face down the world's responsibilities—those were American soldiers being dragged around the streets, and I'm repulsed with a soldier from the North, Kosovo, Rwanda, we were there. There came 9/11. The world saw the destruction this terror can bring, and it stood up and did nothing.

Jon Hackett, Houston

I love my country. But if someone doesn't love Bush in November, I may be heading up north, eh?

Mary O'Sullivan, Toronto, Ont.

As an American (yes, and a Democrat) who's proud he voted for Al Gore last time out, I find your article to be very significant for giving the son of a bitch a second term I've read in the three years he's been in office.

Brian Larkin, New York City

I am sure the President is not losing sleep about his Canadian electoral chances. How many electoral votes does Canada have anyway?

Steve O'Connor, Austin, Tex.

I am tired of being told that Canadians should avoid criticizing the policies of the U.S. government for fear of economic retribution. I am proud that Canadians have the thought

fulness and moral integrity to challenge the propriety and legitimacy of the actions taken against the U.S. Never in my life have I been more proud to be a Canadian.

Robert B. Stewart, Thornhill, Ont.

I doubt President Bush would be terribly upset that Canadians don't like him. It is Canada's enduring theme that we stand strong in the shadows, content to let Saddam's torture and our underestimation because we didn't like Bush's attitude. Oh, but can we bail on the Iraq rebuilding contract and make some money—please, oh, please, please, please!

Terry Edwards, Brampton, Ont.

Thanks for the article on Canadian perspectives of George W. Bush. I can assure you the sentiment is much the same for Canadians living abroad.

Laurent Fillion, U.S. Programme Officer, Montreal

As a Canadian living in the U.S., I think President Bush shouldn't be concerned for one moment whether Canadians feel better off since he took office. He is not the prime minister of Canada. He is the President of the United States, with the duty of making decisions that he feels are best for his country—not the country to the north or south.

Douglas Miller, Jr., Lancaster, Pa.

George W. Bush does not command the respect of Canadians because we see his presidency for what it is: an obvious fraud. Thanks to Jean Chrétien's decision to stay out of Iraq, we have retained our objectivity on the Bush administration. Preserving that objectivity is a quality while Dubya continues to defend his mission as the greatest disservice we could ever inflict on our American friends. Welcome Canada only for telling it like it is.

Tim Stronach, Toronto

Let's be clear: at least George W. Bush stood up for what was right. Bush the same could be said of Jean Chrétien and many of the country's politicians. This constant anti-Americanism is mindless and I can't help but wonder if it's the final glimpse of a nation that has lost its character and relevance.

Allen Baker, Amesbury, Ont.

You have really had a new low with this one! We may all have our opinions about President

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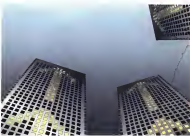
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MACLEAN'S BEHINDTHESCENES



WORKING TO THE TOP

Employers and human resource professionals from across Canada will gather at a conference in Toronto on March 13 and 12 to learn what it takes to become one of Canada's Top 100 Employers.

Maclean's annual reveals the list of Canada's top 100 places to work based on a list created by Mediacorp Canada Inc., the company that publishes the full-book edition of Canada's Top 100 Employers. "We write our book each year from the point of view of the job seeker. The book tells which employers are the best to work for and why, but doesn't get into how HR managers can put these programs into place. Our two-day conference in March is where this kind of technical discussion takes place," says Tony Maclean, Mediacorp's publisher.

The conference facilitates a panel discussion with the media. "Wilby Good Employees Now Make the Headlines." The conversation will be moderated by Maclean's Assistant Managing Editor James Deacon who this year overtook the Canada's Top 100 Employers cover story (Oct. 30, 2001). National business correspondent Katherine Maclellan (who wrote the cover story) will be one of the journalists participating in the panel.

"As the boomers start retiring, the size of the Canadian workforce is tightening, which means employees can demand more from their employers," says Macklem. "Even readers who aren't looking for a new job enjoy the issue because they want to know what their contemporaries are getting at other places of work. And they like to compare their own situation with what's considered best practices in the country."

Says Uehara: "By showing and describing what excellent employers do, Maclean's is raising the bar for companies that want to treat their employees well. Working Canadians are seeing improvements in things like vacation policies, better family-friendly benefits and new community involvement programs."

Visit www.employersummit.ca or call 1-800-363-2580 for more information on the 2004 Top Employer Summit.

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WORLD

IRAQ Just days after U.S. authorities released what they called an al Qaeda terrorist plot seeking to **blow up** sections near between Iraq, Malaysia, two deadly suicide bombings on successive days killed 166 Iraqis, mostly Shiites. Targeted were a group of men seeking to join a police force in a city south of Baghdad, and another lining up to enter on the new Iraq army.

UN critics, meanwhile, met with ill-fated plans. Al Qaeda wanted them they agreed with his call for direct elections, but were worried they could be carried out before the planned U.S. transfer of power to an interim regime, a key demand.

INDONESIA A supposedly milder strain of the avian flu has been used poultry flocks throughout Southeast Asia has led to chicken operations in three U.S. states: Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Officials have quarantined 80 poultry farms.

MIDDLE EAST Opening a long-dormant door, Prince Charles toured the earthquake-ravaged city of Beirut and also met President Mohammed Matar (the first visit in Iran by British royalty since the revolution in 1979) to order development, Iranian Prince



Monaco's Prince Monaco met a former ally, Lebanese leader Michel Aoun, in Tripoli, and Prince Monaco. Ivory Blue said he would do the same soon.

SPAIN South Korea's scientists reported making human stem cells, the body's all-purpose tissue, from the cloned embryos of 36 female volunteers. Called as a way to treat a variety of degenerative disorders and organ rejection problems, because the cloned cells can be made from an individual's own genetic material, the technique is also a human cell line called a blastocyst, the precursor to a fetus, from which stem cells are called. The South Koreans said they have no intention of creating a fully cloned human.

WINDOWS Mighty Microsoft announced it had found three critical security flaws in its ubiquitous Windows operating system that

would allow hackers to hijack computers of unsuspecting users. The last time Microsoft issued such a warning, hackers responded with the Internet slowing to a crawl.

RELIGION By a vote of 494 to 36, French parliamentarians overwhelmingly passed a law to oversee a list of Muslim headscarves and other religious apparel from public schools. The law still must pass the Senate.

RUSSIA President Vladimir Putin officially launched his election campaign by launching the demise of the old Soviet Union. Meanwhile, opposition opponent Boris Yeltsin, who won missing for five days, turned up in Ukraine. He later said he had been lured there, and dragged and abducted by, he thought, Russian secret police.

ABO The UN said it is running out of food in North Korea and that about only enough left to feed about 100,000 people for two months—down from the nearly 5 million it has been helping. More has been pledged but won't arrive until April.

BUSINESS

TRADE OECD made a surprise 10 per cent cut in oil production, which means pump prices



ON FIRE

Smoking, anti-government unrest finally led to a riot in India, where around 100 people were killed over nearly a dozen towns, road blocks, and burning. About 50 people have been killed in the uprising against the government. The anti-popular warlord who has been ruling by decree since 1993 was left without a functioning legislature last year.



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will remain high for the foreseeable future. The World Trade Organization rejected long-running U.S. complaints that the Canadian Wheat Board is an unfair state monopoly, but said Canada must change some grain and freight rules.

REALIZATIONS A sibling rivalry and even a French porn ban have entered the fray to buy Conrad Black's main British papers, the Daily Telegraph and the Sunday Telegraph—part of a bigger group Black is hoping to sell to the Barclay brothers.

LOOKOUT/MISERY Philadelphia-based cable giant Comcast Corp., made a surprise bid of roughly US\$3.4 billion to take over the struggling **Walt Disney** empire, a move that could transform the TV landscape.

Rogers Communications Inc., Canada's largest cable company, says it is finally ready to go head-to-head with Bell Canada by selling Internet-based phone service to its customers in Ontario and Eastern Canada over the next two years.

CANADA

MAO GOW The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said it could be years, not weeks, before seasonal markets are fully opened again in California beef because of contamination and cow disease. U.S. officials, meanwhile, called off their investigative dogs the diseased hailer discovered in December in Washington state, even though



GET SMART A school for micro-robots in design is off. Most often, it's a lot of fun. The school built like a pocket SUV—filled with toys, enough for Canadian students. The idea, it was, would be available later this year at the \$14,000-per-robot price.

they were only able to track the whereabouts of 14 of 35 young men imported from the same Alberta facility, which had been considered "high risk, robust."

TERRORISM A report by the research division of the U.S. Library of Congress said South American groups with ties to al-Qaeda plotted attacks on Jewish targets in Ottawa in 1999, as well as in Mexico, Argentina and

Paraguay. It also said Hezbollah operatives in South America funnelled money through Canada for operations in the Middle East.

EDUCATION Though strapped for cash, the B.C. government reaffirmed its pledge to create room for 25,000 new college and university students by 2010. That goal has approved current undergrads, some of whom have seen their tuition double over the past two years to pay for the expansion.

TRICK-QUEBEC Court of Appeal upheld the firing of two Montreal personalities who refused to help a dying man because they were on break. Suspended by a woman who and his friend was having difficulty breathing, the personalities directed him to a hospital two traffic lights away.

SURPLUS Ottawa's budgetary surplus could reach \$7 billion this year, Finance Minister Ralph Goodale said. That's much higher than a supposedly cash-strapped federal government was letting on.

New Brunswick, meanwhile, said it won't rule out clawing back for itself some of the GST income Ottawa has promised cities because the province is still in the red.

TAKES Conservative party leadership candidate Terry Clement is proposing a novel \$250,000 lifetime campaign before any one would have to start paying income tax.

NDP Leader Jack Layton wants a free on U.S.-bound oil and gas to reach Americans a trade lesson. Such a levy would cover some NAFTA, too, Layton argued the U.S. forces trade rules that will increase on oilseed, lumber and other imports.

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WIRELESS



BY PATRICK LAHONCINI



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Paul Cook & Lisa Brandt

UPFRONT

Mansbridge on the Record



PICTURE-PERFECT PMs

The official photographer clicks away, and the results can be quite revealing

I WAS 10 years old the first time I went face to face with a prime minister. John Diefenbaker welcomed my sister and me to his Parliament Hill office as part of a film shoot, after we'd been picked by visiting producers who considered us typical Canadian schoolchildren. The fact that we were British immigrants who weren't yet officially Canadians, and that we'd barely been here for a few years, didn't bother anyone. They want us to see the Parliament buildings and be photographed for distribution in schools across the country. We spent days being swapped in different locations—the Commons, the Senate, by the bells high in the Peace Tower, then inside the top office in the lead. Diefenbaker was the perfect host, shaking hands, posing for pictures and chatting up my mother, who came along. He spent at least 30 minutes with us.

Since that time I've collected a lot of pictures alongside prime ministers. It comes with the territory for those of us in the media who, as part of our work, quit lead cars about their plans and priorities. Part of the self you pay for is modern PMs are the official photographer, who clicks away when the PM enters a room, and during the kind of pre-interviews often clear that those sessions prompt. Your interview subject wants

them and copies to people they can still name who was snapped standing next to their boss. Sometimes the PM signs them with some seemingly forced hint of familiarity. Pierre Trudeau wrote "Buen noches Peter," although I'm sure he couldn't have picked me out of a lineup. Brian Mulroney made ends about ties, Joe Clark, John Turner and Kim Campbell weren't around long enough to pick up the film from the lab—and then there was Jean Chrétien. His assigned batch of photos arrived the other day. They show old several town halls and together, some one-on-ones, and, finally, a few moments I find quite touching. They're from the night after his farewell event last November, and they capture him and Alice Chrétien in a private room, watching a monitor displaying our coverage of the tributes just before they entered the arena where his was taking place. They seem very alone, as if this were the instant they realized their long run at the top really was coming to an end. I've already had a few sessions with Paul Martin—a year-end interview and a town hall a few weeks ago—and the new PMO photographer was clicking away both times. No pictures have yet, but with an election expected in a few months, they may be along soon.

Almost 20 years after his return to Diefenbaker's office, I took the old photo with me to a news conference he was giving in Winnipeg. After the questions ended, I asked Diefenbaker if he'd mind signing something for me. When I told the picture outside my hotel room, he glanced at it and then, in classic Diefenbaker style, claimed he remembered the moment well. Part of his angle was that he never forgot a face—or that's the way the story went. *Always* he's been duped until that day—because as he pointed his name, he looked up and said, "Ah yes, your mother was there too, wasn't she?"

Peter Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Anchor of *The National*. To connect, tmansbridge@cbc.ca

Passages

DIED Gerald Roney, the tough-minded, lionhearted former premier of the Bank of Canada from 1975 to 1987, died of a heart attack, a combination of angina and recession while managing interest rates to record levels. He died in Ottawa at 83.

CONVICTED Muhammad Mansour Jaharah, 21, a Kuwait-born Canadian who went to high school in St. Catharines, Ont., is believed to be the first Canadian convicted of terrorist charges in the U.S. since the aftermath of 9/11. His family in Kuwait says Jaharah pled guilty in a secret trial and is to be sentenced next month. He was charged with helping organize an al Qaeda operation in Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines.

DIED Janusz Szablowski, the gentleman flyer and celebrated test pilot for the Aero Arrow, was one of a slew of Polish Second World War veterans who engineered and flew Canada's first jet fighter. He died of a rare blood disorder at his home in Surrey, B.C., at 89.

DIED Nicholas [Nik] Goltzschewski, a pianist and conductor born in the Soviet Union who founded the Canadian Opera Company, the Vancouver International Festival and the Guelph Spring Festival, among other events, died in Toronto at 95.

CHARGED Kelly Elrod, the troubled Ontario woman who was granted a new trial a year ago after being convicted of second-degree murder in the 1997 beating and drowning death of 14-year-old Steena Vele, faces new charges. Elrod, 21, and another woman were charged with assaulting a 58-year-old woman in New Westminster, B.C., in a dispute over a cellphone.

MOVING ON June Secombe, 45, the former Liberal member of human resources development who was on the hot seat in early 2000 after an audit found nearly \$1 billion of job-creation money could not be accounted for, is leaving politics for a position with the International Labour Organization in Geneva in May.



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“When I told the picture out of my briefcase, he glanced at it, and in classic Diefenbaker style said he remembered the moment quite well.”



Will the multi-million-dollar sponsorship mess stick to Paul Martin?
JOHN GEDDES reports

Scandalous!

PRIME MINISTER Paul Martin, to his credit, doesn't have much experience in coping with scandal. It shows. He and his close-knit team of advisers had months to plot strategy for the release last week of auditor general Sheila Fraser's explosive report into the federal sponsorship program in Quebec. Yet Martin's carefully prepared answer to what was bound to be the first media question on the report was a misstep. Asked what he knew, back when he was Jean Charest's finance minister, about the corrupt misuse of millions in sponsorship funds, Martin categorically denied he had any recollection of what was happening.

"I didn't know anything about it," he said, first in French and then in English, adding later for good measure, "I have no idea what was going on here."

Martin clearly hoped to shift attention from how much he knew then to what he was doing about it now. There's no doubt that

his response to Fraser's report was his strong suit: a judicial inquiry into the whole mess, a "special counsel" to recover taxpayers' money improperly given away, and new whistle-blower protections for bureaucrats who expose federal wrongdoing. It gave him plenty to say when asked, "What are you going to do about this?" But, as Martin soon learned, that's not the question at the heart of a political scandal. The one that matters

Martin distanced himself from taglines (he left, Charest's public works minister

THE FRASER FACTOR

What's behind it all?

In November 2007, a program was set up in Public Works and Government Services Canada to make the federal government more visible, especially in Quebec, by sponsoring festivals, fairs and other events.

What did the auditor general uncover?

Sheila Fraser stated the \$250 million spent on sponsorships from 1997 to March 31, 2003, perhaps her most shocking finding was that over \$136 million of that was paid to Liberal-connected communications agencies in fees and commissions which they did little or nothing to earn. She said the arrangements made with the firms that got huge payments were designed to hide "the source of the funding and the true substance of the transactions." As well, several Crown corporations, including Via Rail and Canada Post, were found to have gotten sponsorship money in ways the auditor general's report calls "highly complicated and questionable."

What's the government doing about it?

Prime Minister Paul Martin cancelled the sponsorship program on the day he took power, claiming that the Fraser's damning report was on the way. Last week, he announced an independent commission of public inquiry into the matter, under Justice Jean-Denis of the Quebec Superior Court. The MPs on the House public accounts committee have already begun their own hearings into the matter. As well, Martin has hired an outside lawyer to conduct force and individuals who improperly got money in the sponsorship issue, threatening to perhaps sue them. Martin has also promised new whistle-blower protection for public servants, reforms to the way Crown corporations are run, and a review of the system of cabinet responsibility for the actions of public servants, which broke down so spectacularly in this scandal. **A.L.**



is always the double-barrelled query that brought down Richard Meade—what did he know and when did he know it?

By categorically claiming he knew nothing, the Prime Minister did the opposite of putting that disquieting question to rest. A blanket assertion of ignorance just wasn't going to wash. After all, Meade had not only been finance minister during the sponsorship scandal ebb from 1997 and 2001, and

Martin quickly announced an inquiry and reforms to address findings in Fraser's report.

After two days under such heavy fire, Martin called a news conference to clarify his position. This time, he patiently explained that he had suspected merely that there were administrative problems in the program—until May 2002, when the auditor general issued an earlier damning report on those sponsorship accounts. "That is when I began to understand that what had occurred were far beyond administrative failures and involved possible criminal conduct," Meade said. Moreover, though, he has his explanation for why he knew so little until so late. Martin said he was kept in the dark by the Chrétien regime, which regarded him as a rival and a threat.

By distancing the issue to an extent as if his long-standing feud with Chrétien, Martin made this a scandal unlike any other. Past corruption controversies have pitted the governing party against those in opposition. This one now has the additional dimension of a notorious split between Liberals. "I can't recall anything like it," said John Wingle, senior vice-president of the

covered by Fraser, but also a senior Quebec Liberal. Could such an extensive abuse of the public purse in his own backyard escape his notice entirely? The opposition line of attack turned from

BY BLAMING the Chrétien regime, Martin is making this a political scandal unlike any other

the promise that Martin must have known more than he was letting on—and failed to speak up to the issue. "What else may silence a man of the fact that he was so anxious to be preeminent that he turned a blind eye to the corruption that the government was involved in?" asked Conservative MP Peter MacKay in one salvo of a rarely-labbed Martin's way in the House.



Avoids says ministers were preoccupied with their own affairs

discuss swirling rumours about the sponsorship program. The committee was established in the spring of 1998, first as the ad hoc cabinet committee on government communications, and was chaired by Dennis Gagliano, who was then public works minister and may be the central figure in the affair. Martin was not a member. Despite the fact that the committee was responsible for improving the government's image—the official seal of the sponsorships—senior Liberal sources insist Gagliano never put the controversial program on the agenda at any of its meetings. One senior Martin adviser said that on some occasions and on some occasions, part of a pattern of trying to prevent scrutiny of the program.

The Treasury Board secretariat, a small cabinet committee that Martin served as its finance minister, was supposed to receive regular reports on follow-up actions after an external audit of the sponsorships, conducted by the Public Works Department in the spring of 2000. But revealed serious administrative issues. In fact, it also contained an edited "Management Response Audit of

A BREAKDOWN IN CABINET

ONE OF THE KEY QUESTIONS left unanswered by the auditor general's report is how cabinet members in Jean Chrétien's government, including then finance minister Paul Martin, failed to figure out what was going on and take action to stop it. Ministers' asked government officials last week to explain why the two cabinet committees that appear to have been in the best position to take stock of the emerging scandal—and limit the damage—did nothing.

The cabinet committee on communications was the most obvious place for ministers to

Sponsorship Process Action Plan," left three separate reports on remedial actions that were supposedly delivered to the ministers between late 2000 and the spring of 2003.

Asked about the three reports by Martin's, given recent attacks were able to find only one that was actually delivered to the ministers. It is a false document, says a close-up administrator of the program, accompanied by a three-paragraph letter dated Jan. 21, 2001, and signed by Gagliano, claiming that the required corrective measures have been completed. "Treasury Board President Roy McLeod said that Martin and other members of the committee took much notice at the time. 'We're a minister deeply involved with your own staff and you get a report saying, 'problems identified, we've got it fixed, don't worry about it,'" he said. "Unfortunately, the people who were doing this didn't want to reveal it." And it seems they succeeded in avoiding attention. **J.G.**

'I DIDN'T know anything about it,' Prime Minister Paul Martin said. 'I have no idea what it was going on here.'

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MACLEAN'S



COVER >

IT'S TOUGH TO BE A B.C. LIBERAL

IT'S NO SURPRISE the Liberal sponsors to scandal rarely only fleeing from stage men to win Vancouver's newspaper. News disappeared to be about the unrepresented about men killing dogs, or gloves that don't land softly. "Liberals Enter Quebec With Your Tax Dollars" is not from a P.C. point of view. As Vancouver's newspaper, Peter MacKenzie put it, "I'm heart sick while I yawn."

Many are heart sick that the author general condemn such pragmatic thinking. And it's safe to say the next time Prime Ministerial Martin makes about "Western civilization," the \$250-million sponsorship program will be raised as a root cause. One of many similar escapades, is the prevailing view. That said, Martinists should not interpret B.C.'s cynical indifference for forgiveness.

Political scandal is a B.C. specialty. Three of the past five elected B.C. premiers—Bill Bennett, Bill Vander Zalm, Glen Clark—ended up in protracted court cases after political life. A fourth, Mike Harcourt, was haunted from office by a charity-limp scandal of his making. The cabinet of free-holier Liberal Premier Gordon Campbell, notoriously spent a night in a House of jail.

That's not the same as establishing that he didn't have enough information to act. In fact, on the very day after Martin's trial he only began to suspect the worst when Fraser called her May 2002 report, a letter addressed to a Liberal official who wrote to him on Feb. 7, 2002, pleading with him to get to the bottom of "growing rumors" about the program.

In the eruption of gleeful apoplexy on stage and huge headlines last week, Martin's political future was repeatedly said to be at stake. But that could turn out to be an overstatement. Even the biggest scandal—in the eyes of pundits and political insiders—often fail to register the same way with the public. On Aug. 17, 1996, Bill Clinton's agony over the Monica Lewinsky affair seemed to reach their worst point when the U.S. president gave an unapologetic apology speech

for drunk driving. More damaging are the police raids in December on the legislative offices of two senior aides.

These raids should worry Martin, too. The aides, David Bass and Robert Whit, worked for provincial ministers, but they reconnected for Martin's Liberals, helping stack ratings with recent 1990-Canadian Liberals. When details of the police investigation are finally revealed—say in the midst of a spring federal election—Bass Martin could take a hit. And with the Quebec sponsorship scandal, how many of the star candidates Martin has been courting are likely to sign on to sell their meat to an alienated electorate? It just got tougher to be a Liberal Liberal in B.C., but, hey, so now is that. **KEN MACQUEEN**



Bass and Whit caught moonlighting for the federal party, helping to stack ratings.

that commentators quickly judged hopelessly inadequate. American lawmakers, differently, Clinton's strong approval ratings held, even during his.

In his full 2000 election campaign, Clinton was dogged by reports of his involvement with corrupt financial dealings around his hometown of Shrewsbury, Que. With the revelation that he had repeatedly lobbied the federal Business Development Bank of Canada's president to lend money to a hotel owner in his riding, Clinton threatened to take on the edge of a full-blown scandal. But, of course, when headed Clinton's comfortable majority anyway, and his personal popularity remained high until his resignation late last year. "If a government is already weak, scandal has the potential to knock it off," said University of British Columbia political science profes-

I AM MORE TALK AND LESS WALK.

I HAVE MORE WAYS OF GETTING PEOPLE TALKING. BUT I AM NOT ALL TALK. I AM VOICE AND DATA, BOTH ON THE SAME TEAM. I HAVE THE POWER TO PUNCH TIME CLOCKS, LISTEN TO EMAIL AND SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS. I HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE VALUABLE MILEAGE ON OFFICE MOVES AND I.T. STAFF SHOES. I AM A SECURE, PINT-SIZED PRODUCTIVITY EXPERT THAT DELIVERS SUPER-SIZED ROI. I AM MORE THAN A CISCO 7960G IP PHONE.



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nor Allan Tupper. "But if a government is wrong, the vote won't resolve exclusively around it."

What's the lesson from politicians like Clamen and Clinton, who so carefully ride out the norms of scandal? One key is clearly to be well enough grounded on their feet so that the controversy doesn't become the factor that defines the politician in the popular imagination. Clinton's reputation as an honest patriot, summed up neatly in the title of his autobiography, *Straight from the Heart*, was firmly embedded long before the oilings "Whispering" entered the political lexicon. Clamen's unparalleled deficit as a political communicator made him a tough target, combined with the fact that *Advertiser*—long a distinguished reporter of his personal failings—found the Lewinsky revelations less than shocking.

Martin, of course, is in a very different situation. He, like Clamen and Clinton, has the advantage of an established rep-

MARTIN Liberals have cast themselves as a new guard, ready to sweep away the dubious aspects of the old era

utation that may be hard to shake. In his long tenure as finance minister was marked by little scandal, with the exception of an embarrassing episode in March 2003 when a Martin fundraiser in Calgary was revealed to also be a paid adviser to the Finance Department on its policy for the oil and gas industry. With only that relatively minor blunder on a dress occasion, Martin may be able to go into an election, which he is still widely expected to call this spring, asking Canadian voters to vote him in as the solution to the crisis of corruption behind the sponsorship scandal, not part of the cause. "This could in other circumstances suit a government," said Wright. "But people will be asked one key belief question: do you believe Paul Martin didn't have anything to do with it, and has taken the steps to make sure it doesn't happen again? It's an opportunity for him to build himself a platform."

UBC's Tupper says the strength of Martin's position in the inquiry and reforms he announced to address Bremer's findings. "Nobody is talking about the inadequacy



RAILWAYS, RIFLES AND MORE

Some past scandals that rocked Ottawa:

THE PACIFIC RAILWAY. In fight the 1872 election, Prime Minister John A. Macdonald solicited \$300,000 from railway promoters such as Sir Hugh Allan, later revealed with the contract to build the Pacific railway. The scandal broke the next year when the Liberal opposition exposed the deal through damning letters and telegrams. One was from Macdonald's brother-in-law and politician J.C. Abbott, pleading that he "must have another \$50,000." In October 1873, his government resigned, although Macdonald later came back to win the 1878 election.

THE ROSS RIFLE. During the First World War, Sam Hughes, the minister of the militia, was a great proponent of the Canadian Ross rifle. Soldiers, however, hated it because of its heavy weight, size and constant jamming problems. The government also faced corruption accusations over the ordering of thousands of rifles, as well as complaints of rotten rifles and other sub-

standard equipment. In 2014, Ottawa bowed to pressure and replaced the Ross with the British-made Lee-Enfield. A few months later, Prime Minister Robert Borden fired Hughes. **SINCLAIR-STEVENS.** Amid charges he used his public office to further personal business interests, Brian Sinclair's minister of regional industrial expansion resigned in 1986. A subsequent judicial inquiry heard about dealings between him and "wild trust" company and firms that had received millions in development grants from his department. In December 2017, Stevens was found to have misled conflict of interest guidelines on 14 occasions. The debate was only one in a series of Mulroney government scandals.



Previous scandals to shake Ottawa included Sir John A.'s railroad dealings and the Sinclair-Stevens affair.



standard equipment. In 2014, Ottawa bowed to pressure and replaced the Ross with the British-made Lee-Enfield. A few months later, Prime Minister Robert Borden fired Hughes. **SINCLAIR-STEVENS.** Amid charges he used his public office to further personal business interests, Brian Sinclair's minister of regional industrial expansion resigned in 1986. A subsequent judicial inquiry heard about dealings between him and "wild trust" company and firms that had received millions in development grants from his department. In December 2017, Stevens was found to have misled conflict of interest guidelines on 14 occasions. The debate was only one in a series of Mulroney government scandals.

challenges in the new talking terms, it may be that the inquiry term over a lot of us comfortable facts," said one senior Martin adviser. "But at least we haven't put our selves in a position of anyone saying we're not prepared to deal with the truth." Especially if that truth means one's income declining not to them, but to their old enemies in the Clinton camp. ■

HIS OWN MAN

Claude Ryan was never one to compromise

THE PASSING of Claude Ryan, the respected Quebec editorialist and politician who died of cancer in Montreal last week, triggered a torrent of fond reminiscences from people who had known him throughout his many careers as a reformist Catholic militant, publisher, politician, and tireless guide of successive Quebec governments. But you had to know him well to love the man—as a public figure, Ryan was more respected than popular. And his influence was far greater than his readership—more people routinely at a smouldering Canadian hockey game than read his former newspaper.

Le Devoir, every day I never worked for him, but I may say as well have "When I was a cub reporter at *Le Press*, I pursued Ryan as my secret bossman-editor. He didn't suffer fools, but he had a deep religious respect.



All smiles, but he got even with Trudeau

know all the figures. The simple thought of this handsome, round, hairy-tanned, beady-eyed, thin lips, perched a honey finger at a cornered baseball pitcher, was enough to straighten me out. "Those who did work for him called him *le bossman*—the Big Guy. Fearfully respectful, guys were."

I wrote a profile of him when he was contemplating a move into politics in his late seventies. He told me how he had picked and carved his wife—a totally pragmatic and unromantic choice, but so much in character. The piece became ammunition for his foes during his 1978 campaign for the provincial Liberal leadership, and Ryan could hold a grudge 20 years later, when I was covering Quebec politics for the *Globe and Mail*. Ryan called me a gossip journalist in front of a room full of people. Our relationship remained after that. Inst. blood flowed in his veins: don't get mad, get even.

Narrowly stern and frugal, Ryan was no party animal, and he hated the noise

hoing victory party I ever covered, on a cold-moon night in May 1980. On that evening, though, Pierre Trudeau made his famous promise of "change." When change came with the partition of the Constitution in 1982, Ryan relied his Liberal Opposition members to vote with the Parti Québécois government to retain mainly oppose it. Ryan had his own blueprint for the future of Canada—convinced in his aptly titled last paper of 1979—but Trudeau had not followed it. Ryan's opposition to Trudeau probably cost him his job as provincial Liberal

leader, but, then again, he had gotten even. Although he was generous, he had a mean streak. He once told me, "René Lévesque reads my e-mails not—I read books." As Liberal leader, he turned former premier Robert

Bourassa, saying he wanted to mother in law in the bedroom. Bourassa, who had stepped down in 1978 following his loss to the PQ, was a constant jolt to Ryan, and he came back to recognize his party and his power in 1985. He kept Ryan in his cabinet, going in the middle, not in the municipal affairs, language files. Ryan took the file as a man.

Ryan's passing, at 78, forces us to pause and question how the world has changed. On the campaign trail in the '80s, he was already a changed. He did not believe in opinion polls, did not care about photo ops and sound bites, and insisted on making important speeches in remote locations, long past media deadlines. But he was always his own man, a free thinker, an independent spirit, an uncompromising intellectual. A man whose ideas would run to its lines of crime, in quest of a level-headed adviser or a beacon of reason. Among the last of a dying breed. ■



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MACLEAN'S



A CHIEF IN EXILE

James Gabriel says he wanted to take on crime. Now he's an outcast.

IT SOUNDS like the misre script of a John Wayne movie: Good Indian Chief, chased from the tribe he is trying to save, goes to come back, challenge the bad guys and clear his name. But it's the real-life story of James Gabriel, elected grand chief of the Mohawk community of Kaneosake three times. These Mohawks near Montreal have been bad news for politicians before—but not for any of their own. Now Gabriel is an outcast, his house torches on Jan. 12 following a botched police operation he insisted to “weed out the organized crime that has so blighted our community.”

Duck-eyed, square-jawed, articulate and fluently bilingual, the 27-year-old Gabriel has had the media swooning over his role of a crime-busting hero turned victim of a mobster power struggle in the twilight zone of

His family is scattered in safe locations, and bodyguards are with him wherever he goes.

Mohawk politics. “I was not born an Elder. Next, I am not a compulsory righter of wrongs and certainly could have done with out all this attention,” the operator chief told *Maclean's* in a recent interview in a downtown Montreal hotel. “The only solution would be to move away and never have to worry about it again.”

He isn't. What drives him, he says, “is to help provide a healthy, safe and secure environment to raising my kids.” That, and anger. “The anarchists had no way of knowing that my family and I had left the house in upstate New York months before. They wouldn't have needed it if I had died.” His family is now scattered in several safe locations, his police

had base is in jeopardy, his whereabouts are kept secret and two beefy Native bodyguards escort him everywhere he goes. But James Gabriel is going for broke: he is blowing the whistle on what he says has gone wrong in his community. “Our special status as Nations becomes a handicap when it is hijacked by the wrong people,” he says. “If there was no special status, people would not be able to keep themselves in Native rights issues when it comes down to protecting criminal activity—and that is what is happening right now.” In the embattled corridor of Kaneosake, that sort of tale-telling is just not done.

THE GABRIEL CASE is now at the heart of an escalating political mess that has a federal and provincial governments repeating around the Kaneosake misfield,

looking bad at every step. ■ the Sûreté du Québec and the RCMP, frustrated by their inability to do anything, starting like dogs in a car pound. ■ the Mohawk political leadership divided between moderates and traditionalists, crime fighters and assassins. ■ Kaneosake residents torn between crime and poverty, hope and fear, pride and despair. The name Kaneosake was founded in

1800. Hence who they are. Everybody knows they are always the ones making the trouble. They have pretty much a free run in the community. And they have become bolder when they had friends in the band council that are willing to crime. They think they are above the law.”

Trouble erupted on Jan. 12, when 67 policemen from other Native communities, assisted by Gabriel and with special funding

want things to change,” Caronagan says. The standoff ended after several were reached with the protestors. The hostage police were let go. Peacekeepers from the nearby Mohawk community of Kahnawake became the station police force in the village. The deal was hammered out by Jacques Chagnon, Québec's public security minister, without Gabriel's involvement. “Chagnon panicked,” he says. “There is no question that what



The Gesléville psychic in 1990. That summer, the railway was called in to put an end to a 90-day standoff over a disputed golf course that saw one Québec police officer die and confirmed Kaneosake's reputation for volatility. Located at the far edge of the urban sprawl northwest of Montreal, the community of 1,000 has been a no-go zone ever since, avoided by politicians and watched from afar by the Sûreté and RCMP (Kaneosake has had its own police force since the mid-1980s).

Gabriel's house was torches during the standoff, the Warriors' flag flew once again.



from Ottawa, invaded the police station in Kaneosake. They were circled by protestors who had been tipped off in advance. The mob closed off the main road, entered bar-fires and hoisted the flag of the Mohawk Warriors, which flew with torch prominence in 1990. Gabriel's house was torches during that time: 30-hour stand-off.

“The Warriors' flag was camp,” says Dorcas Caronagan, one of the 100 on the seven-member band council and a Gabriel ally supporter. “This is not a Native rights issue, not a territorial issue, it is a law and order issue. In 1990, the community was attacked by outside forces. This time, it is divided from the inside.” The accession of Gesléville, 48, to the council in a recent by-election tipped the majority of the chiefs back to Kaneosake's fence. But while the grand chief now lives in exile under protection, Gesléville lives alone. Perhaps much pecked in front of her door at night. Another Gabriel council ally, Marie-Gisèle, had her car and house pecked with signs. “Some people like the man ego, they don't

the security minister makes a deal with the dominant chiefs or rioters, he undermines my authority and that of my fellow chiefs. I told Chagnon, “You have turned our community over to a gang of criminals.” (Chagnon turned down a similar request from Marston, so did officials with the RCMP and the Sûreté.)

With the “foreign” cops gone and the investigation into the arson officially under way, Kaneosake is quiet again, and a reporter can drive around freely, looking for interviews. John Harding, Gabriel's chief opponent on the band council, is quiet as quiet as Gabriel, at Ottawa and Québec City, at the media and at the other Native police forces—but he speaks in a slow, deliberate, argumentative tone. “You have been around here,” he says. “Does this place look like a stronghold of gangsters? Were you attacked? Were you offered drugs? Were you killed? Were you threatened? And I live here with my two children, and I don't fear for them,” adds Harding, a former politician. “There are social problems, no doubt, but they are no worse than in neighbouring non-Native communities. The crime problem has been exaggerated by Gabriel.” Harding says that “Mohawks are proud



people, very proud people. They don't like to be bad-mouthed—they like it even less when it comes from one of their own. They really don't like to see their patch invaded by outsiders. The problem is not race and order issue, it is a political problem. James Gabriel is the problem." Gabriel, he confesses, governs "like a white man. I don't think he understands the way the community operates. He thinks his majority is more all gives him the right to impose what he thinks is best for the community."

Gabriel admits he did not consult with the three thousand before calling in our side cops. "The decision would have been pointless," he says, adding that he issued the order on the strength of his capacity. But Harding says that's not the way Mohawks have governed themselves. "It is up to the community to decide on policy, and for the leadership to act on the decision. I am the peer of James Gabriel, his equal—James had no authority to do what he did." An election is due in July. The traditionalists are pushing for an early vote "because Gabriel has left the community and is governing by remote control, and the council is paralyzed," Harding says. Gabriel replied that holding

Harding says Gabriel governs like a white man and doesn't understand the community

an election before he could safely return home would be like "handcuffing a dictator based on terror."

Among undercurrents in the debate is the question of who is a real Mohawk. Both Gabriel and Harding are half-bloods. But

IN THIS debate, a strong undercurrent is the question of who is a real Mohawk

Harding's mother was a Mohawk, Gabriel's was not, in this matrilineal culture, Harding is a full-blooded member of one of the clans, Gabriel isn't. And who should have the right to vote? Traditionalists want to restrict it to residents of the territory. "Ethnic cleansing," Gabriel replies. "Eliminate the half-bloods, those who don't speak Mohawk, those who speak French and those living outside the reserve, and you

get a tiny gene pool, unable to reproduce."

Here is the traditionalist's outlook: "We must take the best of our culture and also take the best of modern society, and build upon that," Gabriel says. As for the traditionalists: "We have been battered over more than two centuries, and we are rebuilding our nation." Harding says, "It is difficult, it brings many social problems, but it is up to us to govern ourselves, according to our ways." Gabriel says he is fighting crime "to give the power back to the people, not to Indian who run the show." Harding says Gabriel is putting Mohawk sovereignty properly by "making private deals with outside governments."

You don't need road signs to know you have reached Kanawake. First, the light changes as you drive through the forest of tall pine trees that are famous in newsprint 1990. Then you see the first discount cigarette shack—you are now in Mohawk territory. With the barricade removed, motorists are again supposed to buy—legally—the no-name cigarettes that the Mohawks continue to sell. But, for the time being, James Gabriel must pay the full price for his own the Mauriens, as the 400 members of the nation



A 'FANTASY THING'

The comedian and TV host comments on lesbian chic

Lesbian chic has become the marketing rage, whether in *Sugar* lined over ads featuring hot women licking lips, a sitcom with *Lesbian* actors who regularly get personal—even the *Boy* Madonna hits. To get a lesbian's take on it all, *Madison's* Senior Writer Daeyou Haasethika called to comedian Maggie Cassella, host of Star! TV's *Because I Said So*. Cassella, a former Connecticut lawyer with dual citizenship, is married to her partner of more than seven years and lives in Toronto.

You say lesbian chic isn't new. What do you mean by that?

One word: *Sappho*. Lesbians have always been in. There's just this visibility thing now, and it's more visible. It's an explosive thing, but looking at there have been women who have been married to men, lesbians have been popular [laughs].

Why is it cool to be a lesbian now?

When I was growing up, there was a show called *Rowan* 223, and there was this white guy in there with a big Afro. When cultures and

things about minorities come into the public eye—for whatever reason—then people latch on to them.

This is an awful teenage pop duo that plays on their supposed sexual initiation with each other. Why are they popular?

Idiot, Dan, where have you been? They're young girls wearing schoolyard uniforms, making out with each other. Have you never heard a young girl? It's like every straight man's fantasy. Give me a break. Heterosexual men have always had that lesbian fantasy

thing going on, so there's that, but part of it is the gay movement, people becoming less afraid of gay people, and realizing that gay people are just people who are capable of everything that every other person is capable of—and incapable of, as well.

What did you make of the Madonna-Beyoncé kiss at the MTV video awards last August?

It was a marketing tool because we're still talking about it. That's all it was.

What do you think of the Janet Jackson breast exposure?

Apple, Janet Jackson, breast, Madonna, *It's not a secret*, it's all marketing. Would we even be talking about the Super Bowl halftime show? Who would care if Janet Jackson hadn't shown us her boob? By the way, even if we had, she paid for it. Give me a break. She's so done.

Why did you emigrate to Canada and eventually take dual citizenship?

A girl.

OK, but that relationship didn't last. Have you been treated differently here?

It's been treated. Canadians complain about the weather, or they complain about the taxes, but it's the price you pay for freedom here. I can work in Canada. I feel pretty strongly about the fact that, here, I'm not known as a lesbian comedian. This is known more as an expert on American, on lawyer, Indian relations, Jewish community, lesbians, stand-up comic. It's all those things that make up who I am.

This country has been amazingly nonjudgmental. I don't care if you don't like my comedy, but at least I don't have to put up with, "Oh, she's a dyke, we don't like her." It's more like, "You know what? She's too loud, we don't like her." That's OK. In the States, I'd be called to be on some show because I'm a lesbian, and I think of it. I've been out since I was 17, but I'm not going to be your "break the pain" anymore.

Why agree to this talk?

It's the important for people to know that the best part of being in a lesbian is not being singled out for being a lesbian. It's about living in a multicultural society.



It clogs your computer and wastes your time. But you can protect yourself from e-mail hell.

BY DEREK CHEZZI

IT'S A THURSDAY EVENING in January, and I'm going spammed. Unlike most unwanted e-mail that clutters the in box, I know who's sending it. His screen name is Rogue, a computer expert and self-described "white penis" from Columbus, Ohio—stuffed in the folds of the spam trade but not a spammer himself. He demonstrates how easy it is to bend the Internet to his will and make it send thousands of messages with the click of a mouse. He issues instructions on finding newsware—software to deliver e-mail in bulk and evade traditional filters—and the various techniques for capturing e-mail addresses and making the sender's origin. And it's becoming clear that no matter how often you change e-mail addresses or switch Internet service providers (ISPs), it's impossible to hide from those unsolicited messages. And that, as the e-mail system creaks under the weight of all the junk,

something drastic must be done to rid us of this digital pestilence. Tired of being bludgeoned with offers of discount drugs, cheap mortgages and life insurance, penis enlargement pills, instant celebrity degrees, hard-core sex acts and get-rich-quick schemes? We're not alone. Millions of people are fed up with digital junk mail, nicknamed spam after the canned lunch meat and its reference in a Monty Python sketch about a restaurant that served nothing but spam. Just ask one of the 17 million Canadians who are regularly on-line. A 2000 survey found the majority of respondents would rather clean toilets than deal with a clogged in box. "Suppose a whole gang of people started using go-karts all over the Canadian highways to the point that no traffic could ever get through," says 44-year-old retiree Rod Anderson. "Well that, to me, is what spam is. It's clogged up the system and made it almost unusable."

Over the past decade, e-mail has become an indispensable form of global communication, but the volume of unwanted messages has exploded. Today, anti-spam technology company Brightmail Inc. estimates spam accounts for 60 per cent of total e-mail volume, five times more than it was two years ago. Some Internet providers argue the figures are much higher. Tom Copeland, chair man of the Canadian Association of Internet Providers, says the volume flooded at his customers is closer to 90 per cent. "People out there are bombarding the system with so much junk," he says. For a few years,

Copeland employed staff at his own ISP in Cobourg, Ont., just to manage unwanted messages, but keeping up to date with the latest filtering software and purchasing more server capacity to handle the volume proved a losing battle. He now contracts that task out to ProtonMail, a U.S.-based e-mail filtering service.

It isn't just the commercial e-mail bombardment. There's the clutter of messages from "freemill" sources, too. Your company's intranet departmental updates, your co-workers' semi-regular about-face tales and school chummy drives, and friends' forward jokes, Web links and articles. It adds up to e-mail overload. An exhaustive survey by the Pew Internet and American Life Project found that a quarter of e-mail users had reduced their overall usage due to spam, and just over half of the respondents said they were tired of e-mail because of the intrusion of spam and its often off-putting content. It's also driving shoppers away from the Internet, according to consumer group Think Atlantic Consumer Dialogue.

But few are prepared to log off forever. That would be like giving up on the telephone because of telemarketers. Some have changed their e-mail address in an effort to trap the flood. Jay Stronberg, a 37-year-old lawyer from Windsor, Ont., did that. Four times. "I hate spam. It almost ruined me off the Internet altogether," he says. "But that's almost an impossibility. The Internet plays a much greater role in my life than television."

Anderson, from Cobourg, Ont., has been on the Internet since 1995 and uses it for records, to connect support groups for people with a shared medical condition, and for online banking. Last year, he grew so frustrated by spam—up to 300 unwanted messages a day—that he began buying a third-party service to filter his e-mail. He no longer needs to hunt through his in-box for hours to find the 30 legitimate messages among all the solicitations, but he'd rather devote search time to his e-mail. "It seems to me the world is going to have to do something about this," he says.

The sheriff has been taming the lawlessness of the wild-anarchy frontier. Recently, email's legal basis using the courts to squash digital piracy. Privacy laws aimed at protecting the personal information of Internet users have taken effect in Canada. And new government rights are set on spam. In December, President George W. Bush signed the CAN-SPAM Act, legislation aimed at limiting the volume of unsolicited messages. But critics say the law has no teeth. In fact, they argue it actually opens the door for more spam. "This law is horrific," says Neil Schwarzman, anti-spam activist and chairman of the Canadian arm of the Coalition Against Unsolicited Commercial Email (CAUCE). He wrote SpamVirus, a free regular dispatch from his Montreal home. The way the act is written, Schwarzman says, "means that every company has the right to send you at least one spam e-mail. And there are tens of millions of small- and medium-sized enterprises in the U.S. alone."

Earlier this month, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development hosted a meeting in Ottawa to discuss the rights against spam. At the conference, the European Union, which has tougher laws, said that since the U.S. is the largest source of unsolicited commercial e-mail, it should be doing more to deal with the problem. "It's going to take some aggressive enforcement of the laws to make life uncomfortable for spammers," says Michael Givis, a University of Ottawa law professor who chaired the day and regulatory panel at the OECD meeting.

The people playing poe with safe range from professional marketers



HOW SPAMMERS FIND YOU

DICTIONARY ATTACKS

Spammers will target an e-mail provider and bombard the domain with every letter combination possible. If any of the recipients reply to a spam, their addresses are considered active and added to the "clean" list.

HARVESTING

Indexing software similar to that employed by search engines such as Google and Alta Vista crawls the Internet collecting e-mail addresses posted on Web sites, newsgroups and forums.

WHISKEYS

Once the virus, which typically arrives as an attachment in an e-mail, is downloaded to your computer, it rips through your hard drive collecting e-mail addresses. It then sends itself to all the e-mail addresses you contact last and back to the spammer with a list of e-mail addresses.

SPIN-UP LISTS

Some Web sites sell their subscriber lists to preferred partners, which in turn sell them to their preferred partners, and so on until the list finds its way into the hands of a spammer.

AN EVER-INCREASING ONSLAUGHT

Percentage of total Internet e-mail traffic that is identified as spam



ILLUSTRATION BY BRAD WARD

to 21st-century e-mail offenders, pornography and fraud artists. The last for legitimate marketers is a big money, even if it's then one per cent of receipts click on a link or make a purchase. The risk for an unsuspecting consumer is great, though. Amazon, a major e-commerce site, has found that one, called "phishing," is a form of identity theft in which Web sites designed to look like those of legitimate banks are used to steal login names, account passwords and even credit card information belonging to unsuspecting customers.

To capture your e-mail address, some spammers use software to scan incoming and outgoing messages on a server. This sniffer application collects addresses in the "To" and "From" fields and sends the information back to the spammer, who adds it to a database. But the techies aren't always this sophisticated. Most Canadians online are making their contact information freely available to a spammer. If you've made a purchase online, entered a comment or signed up for an e-mail newsletter, you may have agreed to allow your address to be added—a practice normally disclosed in the contract users are asked to accept before they sign up. However, most people don't read the fine print on those agreements.

Some spammers simply set up shop from an e-mail account with a regular ISP. If the operation is a little larger, they can be outsmarted by renting extra company server space from an Internet provider. If, if they deal with very large quantities of bandwidth, such as online pornography sites, they can afford to purchase their own "server farms." ISPs generally don't monitor the volume of e-mail flowing out from any particular account until they receive a complaint from users. "We have a zero tolerance policy on spam," says Charlotte Barker, senior vice-president of consumer Internet services at Bell Canada. "If any of our subscribers are reported to us, we can validate that they are sending spam and cut off their service."

Once the spammer is run out of town, he simply moves to the next ISP. If he's been kicked out of three services, he can be listed on the Register of Known Spam Operators, a database of the world's worst offenders managed by the Spamhaus Project, a U.S.-based anti-spam organization. Information is collected on each spammer, including the lengths to which some go to disguise their

UNSOLICITED COMMERCIAL E-MAIL, BY CATEGORY (as of January 2004, as per OECD)

Product	20%
Financial	20
Adult	17
Science	8
Health	7
Leisure	6
Internet	5
Food	4
Political	2
Spiritual	2
All other e-mail attacks	7

Source: Reginald



5 TYPES OF WORKPLACE SPAM

Antispam, unwanted e-mail comes in all six packages. In her book *Antispam: Your E-mail-Fighting Guide*, Christine Davidson identifies a host of "workplace spam" that drives a first-time reader into a productivity on a daily basis. She also argues it's high time we introduced some e-mail etiquette at work. "Companies need to develop e-mail policies in the workplace," she says, "that suggest when it's appropriate to e-mail and when not." Davidson breaks down the at-work e-mail onslaught into five categories.

CORPORATE SPAM

People who work for mid- to large-sized corporations know this one all too well. These messages are often addressed to everyone in the company regardless of relevance to the recipient. Davidson suggests the information posted to a company's intranet Web site where employees can peruse it at their discretion.

PROFILE SPAM

These e-mails are designed to keep the sender's name front and center with the recipient—usually a manager or someone higher up the chain—to achieve greater career visibility.

CANSPAM SPAM

Also known as "cover your butt" spam, these are notes recorded from conversations and forwarded to co-workers with the sole purpose of protecting the sender.

FRIENDLY SPAM

Personal requests for donations, reminders of coffee sales, office events, and raffish ticket sales disguised as company e-mail.

IMPERSONATION SPAM

A message forwarded by a co-worker or friend who thinks you would be interested in the content, when it's a scam, chain mail, a Web link or article chock full of "interesting" information.

"Spam

has shattered up the system and made it almost unusable."

ROD ANDERSON



identifying with false names, addresses and phone numbers. Spammers also make spam gangs that roam the Internet, trading secrets on how to beat block lists and what's the latest filter technology.

In Canada, unless the content of the e-mail is criminal in nature (such as financial fraud or child pornography) or the spam maliciously targets a computer to create severe damage, police won't likely lay charges. Some e-mail marketers argue all they're doing is taking advantage of the technology to deliver a commercial message, no different than the hard-copy junk mail that arrives in your mailbox every day. But they are a minority voice. Anti-spammers argue the activity is immoral and should be made illegal.

Even the Canadian Marketing Association supports strict commercial e-mail usage policies. Its 300 members, which include companies such as Canadian Tire Corp. Ltd. and the Hudson's



A BRAND REBORN

It may not last but, for the moment, Cadillacs are the hipsters' ride of choice

OLD MEN drive Cadillacs. There's been a constant for decades, right up there with death and taxes. So how did the stately, out-of-touch and square-jawed and figuratively-haired suddenly become a status symbol again? It's new: the vehicle of choice among Hollywood types and rappers who regularly pepper their rhymes with the brand name. And it's cool enough to make Super Bowl MVP Tim Lincey, a 26-year-old quarterback, seem almost as excited accepting the keys to a new Cadillac Escalade as he'd been hoisting the

championship trophy. Looking at the new models, we're clearly not talking about your daddy's Caddy.

It's part of the business cycle: as companies focus their sales efforts on core customers, they sometimes forget to attract new buyers and their fortunes decline. Then it's up to advertising agencies and product designers to reinvent the brand image, no easy feat once the marketplace deems the products old and uncool. But in the automotive industry lately, retro has worked more often than not. Sure, Ford's stately

coupe of the Thunderbird hasn't sold that well. Volkswagen, though, found a new way to move more Beetles. BMW's Mini is better than ever. In the motorcycle world, Harley Davidson, once nearly scrap, is soaring again.

What Cadillac has achieved is far more significant, because it didn't simply update an old model; it reinvented an entire line with completely new cars. As a result, sales

The Escalade keeps turning up in lyrics by rappers such as Andre 3000 of OutKast

were up by about five per cent in 2003, the average age of buyers is down and the gold-plated crosshairs again. What got Caddy in gear? The company had spent years with regulars think as competitors such as Lexus, BMW and Mercedes entered the luxury market with contemporary, performance-oriented vehicles. With its average buyer preaching retirement ages, Cadillac had to focus on baby boomers. "Consumer needs changed from wanting large boulevard cruisers to fast, rear-wheel-drive vehicles with a youthful design," says Norm Sewels, Cadillac's marketing manager in Canada. But the corner was late catching on. "We didn't read the tea leaves as quickly as we should have," Sewels allows. Alan Middleton, an assistant professor of marketing at York University's Schulich School of Business, says it this way: "Cadillac looked at the luxury

vehicles on the market a few years back and saw only foreign models. It panicked them to say, 'We have to do something.'"

The transformation began three years ago, when Detroit-based General Motors Corp. launched its new line backed up by a US\$4.3-billion re-branding campaign. The company gave the new models a more aggressive, angular look—an acquired taste, some critics say. "We didn't want to bring back the old tailfin, but needed a way to stand out in the maelstrom," Sewels says. The \$77,000 sport-utility Escalade and the \$103,000 XLR are attracting the youngest buyers Cadillac has ever seen: the average age of the Escalade buyer in Canada is 45–49 years younger than the normal Cadillac consumer. To reinforce the image change, Cadillac unleashed its ad campaign built around the Led Zepppelin classic, Rock and Roll. "Using a '60s tune brings the boomers back to a time when they were young in both mind and body," says Middleton. "Music is one of the fastest ways to the senses."

Cadillac's turnaround stands in stark contrast to GM's failure to associate its Oldsmobile division, which, despite a campaign that explicitly stated, "This is not your father's Oldsmobile," with resale performance in May Research Wing, a professor of marketing and business strategy at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., says there are some key differences that time around. "GM used William Riker as the spokesperson for Oldsmobile, and though he is an esteemed Canadian, he wasn't fatherly and the car didn't change—it was still your dad's Oldsmobile," says Wong. "On the other hand, Cadillac, known forever as a ruler of status that ensemble brand, came out with the Escalade—a pure pedigree, pure sport utility, pure status—a going, there a product to back up the bold changes they wanted to make."

An unintended result of Cadillac's reinvention is the brand's appeal among celebrity athletes and musicians, most notably rappers. References to Escalades appear in dozens of chart-topping hip-hop songs, and many of the areas are seen arriving at awards galas in the massive SUVs. "We'd love to take credit for it, but it really just fell in our lap," Sewels says. "It's the type of recognition you can't buy. It doesn't mean anything if I say Cadillac is cool, but if a rapper or athlete says it, then people listen."

The rap connection has created an other valuable if unintended benefit—to attract



In the 1960s, bigger was better and chrome Cadillacs ruled the Canadian luxury market

RETRO WHEELS



Mini debuted in 1959, BMW unveiled its hot-selling minicar in Canada in 2002



VW sold more than 21 million of its original Beetles. Its successor is popular, too



The retro Mini was a critical hit, but sales sagged and it was discontinued



Pontiac is hitting a retro look 2003 Mustang will boost sales of its signature pony

young, hip-loving high schoolers. "Some of these vehicles are like hot wheels and have named showrooms after auto shows," says Kevin O'Donovan, sales manager with Calgary-based CMO-Classic, the largest GM dealership in Western Canada. "Every day teenagers are popping in to stare at the cars and buy Cadillac merchandise." That can sell cars. Middleton says an important factor driving sales is something called "halo finance." "The old model of car buying—dad picks the engineering, mom picks the colour and the kids get to sit in it—hasn't been true for 40 years," says Middleton. "The kids now say, 'You can't buy that. There's no way I'll let you drive me to school in that. It's not cool.'"

What is cool is the logo. Jerry Filice, a buyer with West 40, a national clothing chain catering to teens, says it's been impossible to keep Escalade logoed belt buckles on the shelves. "That buckle sells two-to-one over any other belt buckle we carry," says Filice, whose company is the only Canadian retailer that stocks the item. "We sold about 2,000 last year and we could have sold way more, but we couldn't track any more down." Caddies have also been showing up on the small and big screens—an Escalade was featured in *The Matrix*. *Rebels*' 34-minute chase scene. And through its marketing campaign, Cadillac is now associated with the Super Bowl, the Winter Olympics, the Academy Awards, Wimbledon and the PGA Tour. "It's a way to reach consumers who don't have us on their shopping list," says Sewels, "and let them know there are new things at Cadillac."

Of course, not everything is new. The big Caddies are still gas-guzzlers, and the Escalade was recently awarded the dubious distinction of being the most stolen vehicle in North America—10 times more likely to be towed than the average car. And down the road, who knows how long the Cadillac brand will remain hip, considering the fading tastes of the young and rich. "It doesn't take long for a product to go from being in a song by 50 Cent and attractive to consumers, to being pushed aside for the next hot thing," says Alan Balcer, a senior consultant with the Vancouver-based consumer research firm, South Line Solutions. "Few companies are successful at maintaining interest over the long run." For the moment, though, Cadillac is enjoying the ride. ■



THE LOWDOWN ON THE LOW-CARB DIET WARS

Increased credibility for the Atkins diet has driven critics to extreme tactics

WHEN NEWS BROKE last week that Robert Atkins had been clinically obese at the time of his death, it was hard not to be reminded of events about two years ago, when the diet doctor had gone into cardiac arrest while eating what was presumably his regular breakfast. On both occasions, nutritionists reacted to reports of his ill health with barely concealed glee. "All those eggs, all that steak. His diet doesn't work. It's bad for you. We told you so!" crowed the advocates of low-fat eating just a little too happily.

Just as they had the few years around, colleagues and family of Dr. Atkins moved quickly

to cash his critics, accusing the doctors who had leaked the news of his 258 lb. death weight of being misled by vegans who had misrepresented medical facts. The ex-fat Atkins had weighed 195 lb. when he stepped last winter on an icy towel and went on an eight-day coma, his supporters complained, and the 65-lb. weight gain occurred in hospital, provoked by sugar failures, fluid retention and dramatic bleeding. As for Atkins' heart condition, his widow, Winona, reported that he had become sick only by low-carb eating habits but by a cardiac infarct picked up overseas years earlier.

Last week's raucous events contrasted unfavourably with the way things played out after Atkins' cardiac arrest, from which the 71-year-old physician recovered rapidly. He went on to experience the public relations triumph of his life when *The New York Times* Magazine announced an interview that "influential mainstreamers are beginning to embrace the medical heresy that maybe Dr. Atkins was right." That article became the most talked-about topic in New York since the terrorist attacks. And it began the evolution of the low-fat versus low-carb wars, which continue to this day.

The battle over Atkins' supposed obesity is just an ultra-nasty instalment in the ever-cracking series of news stories about the so-called phenomenon low-carb dieting has become. Certainly, for example, that is one week in January, the mayor of New York, Michael Bloomberg, caused a mini-scandal (and fireworks) last week's events) by

poking, before both a large plate of pasta and a microphone he thought was turned off, that was "bullshit that [Atkins] dropped dead sleeping on a sidewalk." Then, the very next day, officials at Harvard's department of cancer announced a major advertising campaign to repair the image of teenage pats, a beverage once considered healthy but now deemed low-carb. That same day in England, the BBC aired an investigative documentary which took medical news, put one to the Atkins diet, the other was a traditional low-fat diet, and then looked at them both inside a sealed chamber to calculate how quickly they were burning calories.

That history, moreover, designed to verify whether Atkins-type diets really do lose more weight by "feeding our calories," concluded they did not. The only problem, however, is that Atkins never made such a

DEBATE over Atkins' supposed obesity is just an ultra-nasty instalment in the ongoing coverage of low carb's impact.

claim. Rather, the report seems to have originated with his devoted but strong-headed followers, who wanted to show how easy the diet was. What Atkins himself actually said was that by eating their diets, doctors could see if their bodies were in ketosis, a burning fat state, in the end, all the diets

study did was knock down a straw man.

Atkins' central point, in fact, was that a low-carb diet confers a metabolic advantage that causes inherent in low-weight faster because the body processes different types of foods differently. While the BBC's Morison program rejected this claim, its results both contradicted and ignored a Harvard School of Public Health study released just a few months earlier. Compared to the twin experiment, the Harvard study stands as an altogether placid episode in diet research. Harvard scientists and chefs at the Harvard Medical Center in Cambridge, Mass., provided participants with meals prepared from a meticulously crafted menu. For 12 weeks doctors picked up their daily food supply, which included that night's dinner, a snack and the next day's breakfast and lunch.

The 21 participants were divided into a low-fat group, whose members lost 17 lb. on average, a low-carb group that ate the same number of calories and lost 23 lb., and a third group on a low-carb plan that got 500 more calories than everyone else and lost 20 lb. The common-sense result contradicts the idea that the low way to lose pounds is to eat fewer calories, and supports Atkins' anti-low-carb advantage theory and the idea that it takes more energy to digest certain foods.

The Harvard study, designed as a pilot for a much larger study, was small, was too small to be statistically conclusive. It was led by the new guard in the diet wars, researchers with reputations to make, and was attacked, using familiar criticisms, by the old guard, who can only have approximate low, but an entire belief system. First off, the critics accused the poorer-performing diets of cheating, a standard charge that says to make sure diet studies rely on the human system, and it's impossible to prove that some diets aren't secretly scaling down Snickers bars. The critics also accused the



Harvard participants of violating the first law of thermodynamics, which states that energy—in this case calories—can neither be created nor destroyed. But the obvious alternative explanation is simply that the conventional wisdom about nutrition is wrong. The prevalent theory that "calories are calories no matter what" doesn't even acknowledge, for example, that differences in individual metabolism can despite the fact that it's completely obvious they do.

Although a very small minority of nutritionists concede that the calorie theory needs refining, the majority can't give up their faith in low fat. They point to numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies that demonstrate people who follow low-fat diets lose weight. But what remains to be proven is whether low-fat diets work better or worse than low-carb alternatives. With defensive diet studies still to come, however, the public has chosen not to wait around and get fatter. It's ignoring the dire warnings of nutritionists and opting for low carb.

The diet of choice this past year has been South Beach, which is so similar to Atkins

that even weight-loss experts have difficulty telling the two apart. It's now topping the number-one advice best-seller charts, while Dr. Atkins' *New Diet Revolution* retains the No. 1 spot in paperback advice. This personal popularity and branding power has made Atkins a lightning-bolt for critics, not just with the low-fat nutritional establishment but also with the potato farmers and bread makers who hold him responsible for diminishing sales. Of course, he thus would point out that he has banned the whole eggs, and cheese, and may have posthumously helped save the beef industry from collapse after the mad cow scare. Not to mention his impact on the restaurant scene, now offering low-carb specials, craftspersons, bunless burgers and Atkins-friendly wraps.

So how exactly did Atkins, who was co-opted as a guide for two decades, become such a powerful force? Well, as with most trends, dietaries remain of low carb (not to be confused with Atkins' early seventies high-protein model) caught on quickly with influential early adopters like police and personal trainers. Other proponents were

panicky doctors who surreptitiously went low carb and discovered that it was only worked but contradicted what they had learned in medical school. When they dared to speak up, they were backed up by still more doctors who had found that overweight patients felt less hungry with low carb, lost more weight and, contrary to expectations, saw their cholesterol levels improve.

Of course, even if low-carb eating is even really found to be perfectly healthy and a more effective way to lose weight than low-fat, there's no argument as people will be able to keep pounds off. It's something of a paradox that at the same time low-carb diet books are flying off the shelves, so too are Kravitz Kravitz docters. Predictably, the critics in the diet wars blame each other for causing the kind of disinformation that pushes people to gobble up such high-carb and high-fat meals. After all, that kind of thing isn't supposed to happen to people who follow the right diets.

Ann Brodtkorb is a Montreal journalist who writes about food and culture.



Psychology | Terror and the brain

Why are some victims of a car accident or a brutal rape debilitated by the event for years after, while others seem to be able to get on with their lives? The issue may be more complex than just an individual's personality, say brain researchers at the Roberts Research Institute in London, Ont. In fact, what we now refer to as post-traumatic stress syndrome, a condition that has also affected hundreds of Canadian soldiers, seems to result from the particular way the brain recalls the memories of especially vivid events.

For three years, researchers conducted brain-scanning tests on 24 victims of brutal sexual assaults and horrific car accidents. 13 of them prolonged narratives of past traumatic events. A powerful magnet in room used imaging machine (MRI) measured brain activity while the participants heard their own narratives of the events played back to them. The differences were startling and "confirmed everything we've seen clinically," says study director Dr. Ruth Lenzen, a psychology professor at the University of Western Ontario.

For those who suffer from post-traumatic stress, their memories of what happened were replayed through the sensory and imagery streaming area of the brain's left hemisphere. Recalling the event, as even experiencing a sensory cue like a car horn or the taste of blood, can unleash a flood of movie-like flashbacks and make it feel as if the incident was happening all over again. On the other hand, those who underwent equally horrific events, but do not suffer from post-traumatic stress, experienced their memories in the brain's left hemisphere, where language abilities mostly reside, and from which personal narratives can be modified by repeated retelling. "For them," says Lenzen, "it was just a memory of the past."

Lenzen says it is not clear why the mind recalls seemingly equal traumatic memories from different locales. It may have to do with the severity of the incident or individual personality. It may also be simply the result of the direct pathways of the brain.



Lenzen says it's unclear why the brain recalls traumas in such vastly different ways.

Findings

MS trigger

World University researchers have shown that a key enzyme that appears to trigger the onset of multiple sclerosis, the debilitating disease of the nervous system that affects over 350,000 Canadians. What's more, they've been able to block it with a chemical inhibitor, halting the progression of MS-like symptoms in laboratory mice. They caution, though, that a human blocker will require many more years of research.



Even in certain cases, however—can cut the misfires of patients during surgery and think the everyday bacteria, due to the way on vulnerable bodies, University of Chicago scientists say. The connection seems to act as a shield to prevent chemical signals of stress from reaching the brain, and causing them to spring into action. If the shield works as well on humans as it did on mice, it would help alleviate the need for immune suppressants to treat long-term acquired infections.

Atackero asthma

A new trend has been opened in the battle against asthma and other pulmonary diseases, with a protein that stops the buildup of airway-inflaming mucus, researchers already use drugs and other drugs that enter the airways during an asthma, but their lead to decline its effectiveness after prolonged use. This new approach, followed by researchers at North Carolina State University, stops the overproduction of mucus in mice, though some birds are able to take whether the reaction continues to build up on-site cells.

Cholesterol levels are closely linked to the physical health of the body, but also to the brain.

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HEALTHNOTES



Workplace | The cure for a sick building

The response, says Dr. Dick Mertz, has been "unbelievable." Everytime it seems, less a sick building they'd like to be in. It really goes as far away as China and India, and from engineers and architects to ordinary office workers, have pursued Mertz's lab in the Montreal Christ Institute, part of McGill University. That's because Mertz, a retired agent, and his colleagues demonstrated that ultraviolet light kills mould and bacteria in air-conditioning systems and can improve the health of workers. "Nobody was in another legions kind of outbreak," says Mertz. "This technology converges that." Researchers have long known mould and bacteria thrive in the dark, moist climates that house air conditioning equipment. Studies have also linked cooling systems to sick buildings in which people complain of headaches, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, dizziness and congestion.

So Mertz's team installed four Montreal office towers, fitting the air conditioning systems with UV lamps to battle the drip pans and cooling coils in general of light for a month. (UV light is already used to sanitize the air in operating rooms and pharmaceutical facilities.) Researchers also turned the UV lamps off for three months to allow mould and bacteria to grow back. They repeated the cycle two more times over the course of nearly a year.

Researchers didn't tell the study's 771 participants when the germ-killing lights were on. The result: workers reported a 20-per-cent reduction in absences with the UV working, and a 40-per-cent drop in respiratory problems. "Now smokers and those with allergies aren't experiencing the greatest benefits," Mertz says. It costs about \$45,000 to install the UV hardware in a typical office building with 1,000 employees, and would likely reduce days lost to illness. "That's pretty cheap," he adds. It also sounds like a breath of fresh air. **DAVID HAMILTON**

Sleep | Mask of the chronic snorer

For the sleep-deprived and chronic snorers, it can seem that the cure is worse than what ails them. A mask and pump that forces air through the nose to prevent snoring obstruction isn't the most attractive device to wear to bed. "It's look like an elephant," says sleep expert Dr. Harvey White, who has been using a CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machine, or CPAP, for 20 years. "But the only person who won't it is my wife, and she thinks it's much better to have the mask than the pressure."

Disobedient sleep apnea, which affects four per cent of men and two per cent of women, causes a person's airway to collapse during sleep and can stop breathing for a minute or longer. White, a 1,000-bed St. Joseph's Hospital for St. John's, has told such episodes a night without treatment, sleep is no longer restful, causing memory loss and irritability — as well as, studies say, a raised higher chance of highway accidents due to drowsiness. It has also been linked to an increased risk of strokes and heart disease.

But despite the closed hood, CPAPs allow and up at the back of the throat, says Dr. Harvey White, a Toronto-based expert on sleep disorders. Still, he says CPAPs are a necessary device, and today's machines



are quieter, more effective than the first units on the market. They cost between \$1,000 and \$2,000, but they are increasingly being covered by provincial and private health insurance. CPAPs can take getting used to, but looking funny in bed may be a small price to pay for a good night's rest.

Web help | The virtual hospice

Most people understand the uncertainty of death and illness. With less, we get help, death, not so much. That's why a group of federal, provincial and municipal agencies teamed up in Winnipeg earlier this month to launch a \$1.2-million Web site that offers practical advice to Canadians coping with someone about to die.

The Canadian Virtual Hospice Centre (www.virtualhospice.ca), a bilingual site, features authoritative guidance on physical, emotional and spiritual care. Says nurse Anita Stiles, the hospice's coordinator: "This has to give everyone a venue to work together on every level — patients,



families, care providers, volunteers and researchers — under one roof."

What should loved ones say to a dying person? What are some of the troubling physical signs that the end is near? What's the best way to manage pain? The easy-to-navigate site offers a chat room and bulletin board for added support and a link to local community services. Visitors can e-mail questions to staff nurses and a doctor, with replies promised within three business days.

REPLAYING A BORDER WAR

GARE JOYCE finds little camaraderie at the 73rd West Point-RMC hockey game

ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON West Point sent its regrets the night on the ice, known to squad and the deferring team would not be making the trip to Kingston, Ont., for their annual mid-winter exchange with the Royal Military College. You could have read two squad into this. You could have put it down to the over-fostered relations between the U.S. and Canada. And turned out, the two intense rivalries did have something to do with a child—as so many that side roads in update New York too much for the 100-hour bus ride from the U.S. military academy. Fortunately, the counterpart of the weekend would go on as

scheduled—the 73rd installment of the West Point-RMC hockey game. The Black Knights had made the trip Thursday and this would be the first cancellation of the event since RMC shut down during the Second World War. Army-RMC goes almost as far back as the 1800s, the Maple Leafs, and lay down to bring the oldest continually contested sports event between the U.S. and Canada.

Even if it's not the oldest, it would rank among the most bizarre. And, as usual, in the beginning, RMC's commander, Maj. Gen. Sir Archibald Macdonnell, and West Point's superintendent, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, exchanged an exhibition game between the companies at West Point, N.Y., and Kingston, Ont. that generated some rivalry and sponsorship. The team sent for the first time, outdoors on natural ice, at West Point on Feb. 1, 1923, the USMA sent along 34. The Canadian team then lost 14 to 0, but not a lot of weight was given to winning or losing. West Point-RMC continued a largely social and gentlemanly affair for a quarter-century as a point of honor, the teams played games without penalties being called and a casual comment in 1954.

The rivalry ramped up thereafter. "For over a century, the RMC game became the equivalent of the football game's game against Navy," said West Point's current hockey coach, Bob Riley. Going through the 2004 game, the series stood at 36 wins for West Point,



38 wins for RMC, and six out of 10. Retired Maj. Gen. Oliver, a recruiter for RMC's variety sports programs and the hockey program's resident historian, offers a familiar metaphor for the rivalry between the military schools: hockey programs "It's war," Oliver says. "Huge hits. Sometimes fights. The teams respect each other, but for those 60 minutes they really don't like each other."

On the surface, RMC seems overmatched. Its student body is about 1,000, the USMA a five times that. RMC's overall athletic budget, including intramurals, is \$750,000, which wouldn't even start to feed Army's football team. Oliver and the RMC's Paladins'

coach Kelly Nabea try to keep tabs on Year 11 or Junior B players who might have the grades to get into RMC. Still, it's a tough sell, particularly with the minimum five years of required service after graduation. West Point's recruiters can point to recent graduates, Don Hincote, who was allowed to defer his required five-year hitch so he can play with the Colorado Avalanche. "If you went through the West Point process, you'd see that all but one of the players are recruited," Oliver says. "West Point is a lot more like other top U.S. college programs than like us in this way."

This year the odds looked even longer for RMC. Going into the West Point game, the Paladins had won only two of their 20 games against Ontario university teams. "We're a defensive team that struggles to score," Nabea said. "Like one thing at, I can count on our players being up for this game." That's true of any game these days pitting Canadian teams against Americans, from the Olympics right down to junior tournaments. Paladins' captain Matt Maize, a fourth-year electrical engineering major from Burlington, Ont., suggested that something more was in play for RMC. "There's a difference between West Point cadets and us," said the 22-year-old Maize. "I have friends who are back from Afghanistan, but what's happening in politics isn't our concern. We know we could be serving but side these guys in four or five years, but our roles are different. We're the peacekeepers."

On Saturday afternoon the RMC's modest body came to the rink in full dress and filled out their seats in orderly fashion. The seats behind the RMC bench were reserved for VIPs, square-jawed, quiet and polite men from both sides of the border, and bars



The Paladins and the RMC fans celebrated Fred's third period goal, but Army won the game.

all around. The atmosphere was rowdier than you'd find at the old-school Army-Navy football game. Two drivers beat the rush between from Annapolis during "West Point music." The college's band had turned out just the usual brass and drums but also a guitarist who played selections by AC/DC, Pink Floyd and Nirvana.

The game itself was less a match in information than a rush for, loss of contact and

play that occasionally lapsed into stalling. After a period the teams had a goal apiece and, although the visitors were on average a couple of inches taller and 15 lbs. heavier, there was little choice between the teams in the third period. In the second period of West Point cut out to a 3-1 lead, but it could have been worse. Paladins' goalie (Baker Johnson, a first-year senior and first-year major from Outlook, Sask., made

a few spectacular saves in staving off an Army onslaught. "Robinson gave us a chance to win this game," coach Nabea said.

Three minutes into the third period, RMC pulled within a goal of Army when right winger Matt Reid, a student studying in chemical engineering, tipped a point shot past West Point goalkeeper Fred Roberts. Though the Paladins dominated play the rest of the way, they couldn't beat Roberts for a tying goal. In the last few shifts, a couple of light breaks out and made talking easier. Maize might one day serve as a peacekeeper, but on Saturday afternoon the role fell to King Kennedy, a referee on loan from the National Hockey League. It was all Kennedy could do to control the game. Even after the final buzzer, he was breaking up skirmishes that threatened to divide into a battle royal. After the players had a chance to cool down and soak up some post-game applause, the teams lined up for the ceremonial handshake. Though the game is billed as a friendly exhibition, the smiles were forced and teeth gnashed.

Riley knows West Point and its cadets as well as any civilian can. He has coached the Army team for the last 17 seasons. Before that, his father, Jack, coached the team for more than two decades. Riley says his players, unlike Maize, are giving a lot of thought to politics. "There is a different atmosphere around the team after they've taken on that going on," Riley said. "I see a difference with our fourth-year players. They all have friends who have shipped out."

Army captain Mike McLean, a fourth-year defenseless, agrees. "Any player in his final year at West Point thinks about this," says McLean who, like Maize, is planning on carrying his platoon's wings. "We're getting a morale from our older members who are in Iraq and Afghanistan. We know we might be killed, and it makes us appreciate everything like this game even more."

After the game, West Point again sent its regrets the team sent its regrets to the other side. The cadets boarded off the bus in their dress uniforms, returned to barracks in order of dress and were asked to recheck the events on school by the team. But after the afternoon's action in Kingston, where the rowdiness grew more because several minutes for 60 minutes, an exhibition to promote camaraderie looked more like a once-a-year war game. **F**

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THE POINT OF NO RETURN

A mountain devours, a butterfly heals and a girl hides from the Taliban

WHEN YOU'RE WATCHING a really good thriller, it's a visceral experience. Your whole body gets into the act, bodily exorcising anxiety into adrenaline. Although it's only a movie, it can leave you emotionally and physically drained, as if every cell of your anatomy being hit conspired in an unlikely leap of imagination. It's what Sergio Cokridge famously called "that willing suspension of disbelief." And what's remarkable is that you can be on the edge of your seat even when you know the outcome of the story in advance. That's exactly the case with *Touching the Void*, a gripping docudrama about a

legendary climbing accident. Throughout the movie we're reminded that the clifftop in question had to tell the tale, because that's exactly what they do—in interviews woven into a dramatic re-enactment. But somehow that doesn't dampen the suspense. *Touching the Void*, a harrowing cliff hanger, may be the best climbing movie ever made. It's also the most thrilling suspense movie of any kind that I've seen in a long time.

Based on the 1988 bestseller by British mountaineer Joe Simpson, it tells a harrowing tale of survival. In 1985, Simpson and climbing partner Simon Yates set off to scale the uncharted peak west face of Siula Grande, 6,400-m peak in a remote corner of the Peruvian Andes. They reach the summit, the first climbers ever to do so, but on the way down, battered by a sudden storm, Simpson falls and shatters his leg. Yates tries to lower him to safety on the end of a rope, but inadvertently drops him over an ice cliff. As Simpson dangles from the overhanging like a fish too heavy to reel in, his weight is slowly pulling his partner off the mountain. So Yates is faced with a gruesome decision. Rather than die with his fellow climber, he pulls out a Swiss Army knife and cuts the rope, sending Simpson plummeting into the void.

Yates makes it back to base camp, convinced his partner was dead. But Simpson survived a 50-m fall into a giant crevasse, a dark cavern of snow and ice that he reduced was about the size of the dome above St. Paul's Cathedral. He couldn't climb out, he can only go deeper, hoping to find light at the end of the tunnel. And for the several days, without food or water, he crawled down the mountain in excruciating pain, not knowing if there would be anyone at the bottom.

Wiles, meanwhile, is misled by guide-by-outing the thread between him and his partner, he's broken the most basic taboo of mountaineering.

For a while, *Hollywood* was very groovy. Simpson's book was a movie starring Tim Cruise. We can be grateful that hasn't happened. *Touching the Void* reverses a daring line between drama and documentary. And in the genre of climbing movies, its authenticity is unparalleled. Oscar-winning director Kevin Macdonald shot in extreme conditions, both on the Andean mountain where the events took place and in the Swiss Alps. Actors Bradley Jay (Simpson) and Nicholas Aaron (Yates) resemble their subjects closely enough that we accept them. It also helps that they have similarly no di-

staste, and are disgusted by frost. They look like me, awkwardly incarnations of the real-life climbers, through the verbal narrative in separate interviews delivered insight to cinema in intimate close-ups.

Simpson's very English manner deftly undoes the horror of his ordeal. As the life ebbs out of him, he recalls, when pop song by Boney M rattled through his headphones. Simpson remembers that he kept thinking, "Bloody hell, I'm going to die to Boney M." A confirmed atheist, Simpson swears he made no last-ditch deals with God, but there's a sense that he's in the company of something. "It's like a person was just saying an 'ari,'" he says, "and was eventually going to stand on it." And as he crawled to what looked like certain death, the notion of life was "a slow, steady reduction—you just become nothing."

Simpson doesn't blame his partner for cutting the rope, and insists he would have done the same. But Yates, who came under heavy criticism in the climbing community, clearly occupies the less terrible side of the story. No matter how justified he may



Mackay and Aaron portray British mountaineers in the harrowing tale of a climbing disaster



WORKING-CLASS BOYS MADE GOOD

Peter Robinson and his compelling Insp. Banks tower over Canadian crime

READERS AND CRITICS alike generally have no problem finding a common Canadian text in this country's varied literary fiction. A sense of chastened irony—the result not only of an unforgiving climate but also of heavy support as empire, never the ruling power itself—links books as disparate as 9/10: Mitchell's *Wild Hat* and *Wind and Water* and *Man of War*. Canadian sci-fi and even more influential non-fiction, like the works of Northrop Frye and Marjorie LeBlond, also more than make their mark. It's not harder, though, to find common elements within the one subgenre that is Canadian crime fiction. In part that's because crime writing here is so voraciously a surprisingly large body of work, often read by wider groups, than from below the surface of popular consciousness. But it's mostly because its sheer variety defies easy description.

The author doesn't always like Banks, but they have a lot in common

There are literary drinkers probing post-9/11 anxieties, like Mark Sinnett's bewitching *Witness* and *The Road to Nowhere*, and such updated versions of the traditional, almost bloodless "copy" as the stylish and amusing *Lament for a Young Lord* by Mary Jane Maffei. Even PR's first published novel in 15 years, Michael Hoenessey's *The Berryer*, takes aim back upon the 1940 hangings of two Island men convicted of murder, the province's last instances of capital punishment. First-time police procedurals include those featuring Inup: *End of the Road* by

Newfoundland Constabulary by Thomas Boudell; Carron and Glen Tolan's Northern Ontario detective John Cardinal; Hixson's detective merge from Don Cutler's life as a government agent roaming Upper Canada in the some months before the Rebellions of 1837; so Carolina Bach's beguiling chronicle of a blind Jewish physician sleuth in 14th-century Carcassonne.

A common Canadian-themed mystery seems possible, but for fans of a genre in which the demand for fresh product is second only to romance writing, the mere fact of the authors' nationality is a selling point. At least it is for foreigners, according to J.D. Singh, co-proprietor of *Sleuth of Baker Street*, a Toronto mystery bookstore. "We have a very active reading list: Australians, Americans, then call in for books they can't get at home. Besides, if we notice a point, you know, when you've read everything you can go about New York, L.A., or London, and Toronto starts to look exotic." The situation is reversed, for Singh's local customers, and to his shop literary purism plays no role. "Canadian-interest for itself appeals with everyone else."

All that might help explain why Canada's most renowned crime author is a transplanted Englishman, writing about an English policeman in an English town. "Actually," laughs Peter Robinson, who has lived in Toronto for the past 10 years, "I was both sides of the fence. The bookshelves can say, 'Oh, you like Ian Rankin's novel?' Why don't you try this Robinson fellow?" Why don't you try this Robinson fellow?

ROBINSON quietly pushes the boundaries of crime fiction while accepting that it gets short shrift from critics

They carry. "So, you're looking for Canadian mysteries." "That may be more just for the commercial mill, but the true reason of Robinson's burgeoning fan base and critical acclaim lies in the intriguing evolution of his main character, Inspector Ian Banks. The leap: Banks books began in 1987 as well-crafted but essentially standard-issue police procedurals, with a bright thread of anti-Thatcher politics running through them. Fourteen months later, the politics are muted. And the stories have become dark, psychologically nuanced character studies, primarily of Banks himself, involving class-boy made good. In Robinson's latest, the intricately plotted *Playing With Fire* (McClelland & Stewart), Banks—still reeling from a meltdown in his personal life—has to cope with arson, murder and his uncertain relationships with several women.

It's not just readers who find the moodily self-critical policeman ever more compelling. "Banks matters more now than in the earlier books," Robinson says. "I couldn't do his job, I certainly couldn't cope with a suspect. I don't even like him all the time." But despite their physical clumsiness—Banks is slight and dark, Robinson is a blond, if balding, sea-farmer-crooner and character are much alike. Common data organs are matched by common social obsessions—music is so central to the books that the author's Web site tracks Banks' eclectic play lists (Banks and the Beatles) novel by novel. And then there are the deeper structural similarities, Robinson notes, in the work of writer and detective, "the over-dropping, the being you part." And the mental wear and tear of growing older. "Yeah, Banks is going into middle age now," smiles Robinson, 53, "with all that muscle."



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Gale, HarperCollins
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Inup
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The factors in Banks means Canadian literature probably never get what Singh says they would "clearly love," a Robinson novel set here. *Aghast* (writing copper) (detective that suspect), "Banks can't move at this point in his career," Robinson says, and should he encounter a crime on a visit to Canada "He wouldn't have the resources" to investigate. Despite two early-on *Banks* thrillers, the author can't seem to do without his character any more. Robinson originally planned *Aftermath* (2001), loosely based on the Bernardo Bertolucci case, as a third stand-alone, set in his Toronto Beaches neighborhood. It didn't work out. "I found it a little too close to home. Not only are my neighbours nice people, not murderers, but I was wasting time, waiting the streets making sure all the buildings were in the right order." He switched the setting to England, and was more than 300 pages along when an intriguing question—"what's wrong with this story?"—finally forced him to the obvious answer: no Banks. So *Aftermath* became the 13th Banks novel, an exploration of what that would not have been nearly as harrowing without the suspect's emotional resonance.

Robinson, in fact, takes what critics see as an additional limitation as given writing—"there are two critics against me," he agrees, "I write crime and I have a serious burn"—and turns Banks' unlikable personality into a strength. Unlike Stephen King, an enthusiastic Banks fan who often complains that popular writers never get their due from critics, Robinson quietly pushes the boundaries of crime fiction while dragging off the genre war. "Geez don't want what you can do," admits the author, who has a doctorate in English literature (modern British poetry, no less). "I have to have a crime, an investigation, a solution, I'm not writing *Madame Bovary*."

But Robinson also believes, in common with all the authors writers of his genre, that while crime may be eternal—given the odds of the human race—its expression changes over time. Criminal acts, like works of art, say, something about current society. And if the Banks novels don't provide the solace of dissociated order—stories—the notion of social and moral order—there's "a hell of a lot more order inside the novels than out," Robinson says. Readers who follow Banks through his investigations will at least know what happened, even if, like the suspect himself, they don't know why. ■



IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T...

I was laid off at the age of 53, and it actually turned into a good thing

IN NOVEMBER 2002, at 53 years of age, I became a statistic: I was laid off from a well-paying job as a computer-based training developer. My wife, Susan, and I knew it was coming, but were still shocked when the phone rang to tell me "to drop into work and clean out your desk." It seemed so harsh. After I registered my computer, we sat down to formulate a survival plan. We still have four kids at home and Sue hadn't worked since our first was born in 1978. I couldn't afford to be homeless. I'd read about who had crashed eco-

nomically into a job loss and never recovered—no would try quite like a.

I renewed my resume and joined several Internet job search sites. I learned the newspapers. I phoned contacts and talked to hockey fathers during my son's games. They were all supportive and encouraging, but nothing materialized. I passed through a myriad of emotions from optimism, to doubt, to panic, to rage. Finally, in desperation, I thought back to what my former employer's human resources representative had told me: the big downfall for many in my position is "not looking outside the box for a new career."

In reality, it was a huge step. The biggest adversity job sector in the newspaper was for truck drivers. Perhaps a little extreme, but all plausible—I had been in the military until 1998, working not only in the computer-based training field but also as a truck company driver. After taking 20 hours of driving instruction, I passed my Class One license. I quickly discovered that no one would hire me without two years of driving had experience. So I eventually convinced a local driver to let me team drive with him on a seven-day trip from Calgary to Montreal and back.

Driving a fully loaded Kenworth tractor trailer, we left on a Monday December night. Outside Medicine Hat, Alta., he asked me to slow down to 60 km/h while he stepped out on the running board to have a leak. We changed drivers while on the move, sleeping, voices were and money. Early on the third day, while driving through northwestern Ontario during a snowstorm, I became disoriented. Commercial truck traffic

crowded the two-lane shoulderless road. I realized I lacked the experience to be driving at these conditions, yet I swore I was not going to die on a rock face in this place. Still, in a strange way, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and meeting the challenge.

In March, I answered an ad to become a tour bus driver in the Rockies. Thirty people from all walks of life, including four retired RCMP members, signed up for three weeks of driver training. We spent days on non-averting buses around driving courses and on the picturesque highways between Banff



and Jasper. After graduating, we received our new uniforms and set to work transporting sightseers to various sites in the Rockies—for one week. At that point the company laid us all off because the SARS scare had dramatically reduced the scenic business. I'm not sure why, but again, I found the whole experience exhilarating.

During this period I had learned that the military was short qualified people in my former occupation. They needed me and I certainly needed them. But I would have to pass a full medical exam and fitness test. Although I walked and weighed 210 lbs, regularly

I failed my first aerobic test. That prompted me to start a training program, for six weeks I dieted and used a step machine to lose 24 pounds. I now weigh 196 lbs at 278 lbs, a weight I hadn't seen since my early 30s. I took the test again and squeaked through.

After eight months of being brushed off, it was heartwarming to be wanted again. I am now employed as a training development officer, concentrating on technology issues, and have a new sense of vigor and a refreshed outlook on life. (My wife, too, has regained confidence after going back to work at 51.)

So what have I learned about getting a job when you're over 50? Get into shape. When going for an interview, it's imperative to find you can meet the demands.

Maintain and develop friendships. Friends are supportive and may even give you a solid lead. But most important, you have someone to vent to. I e-mailed my old work buddies with monthly updates and they were always encouraging.

Develop an arsenal of skills. Find niches where about my abilities after driving a truck and a bus. Those experiences made me realize that I can do anything, if I choose.

Be adventurous. Take that step—go ahead, you've got nothing to lose.

Be lucky. There is a certain amount of serendipity involved. After one prospective employer said he'd contact my military reference, I phoned to double-check that the number was still current. My reference casually wondered if I would like to come back. What would have happened if I hadn't called?

In a funny sort of way, I realize that I was fortunate to be laid off. My life has been enriched dramatically by the unique experiences, challenges and people I have met. ■

Hugh Esder lives in Winnipeg, and is planning to eventually start a second career training in technology. To connect, visit www.hughesder.ca



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Books | Lost in translation

Never underestimate the power of a cat dog. Just ask Toronto-based illustrator **Joe Phillips**, whose charming book *Lost, a compendium of missing pet posters*, has garnered an unexpected following in Japan—thanks in part to the adorable pup Phillips sketched for the cover. *Lost* grew out of poster Phillips had drawn over 12 years. And while global sales of the book were brisk after its April 2002 release (20,000 copies sold in the first six months), things really took off last summer when it was translated into Japanese. In fact, a million merchandising empires are built around Phillips' cover pooch.

After buying the rights, a Tokyo-based firm named the cartoon creature **Low-kun** and started selling accessories, including plush dolls, bedding, cellphone cases, handbags and key chains. "I've been told that about 10,000 T-shirts were selling in Japan when *Lost* first started here," says Phillips, 32, adding that this summer a housewren line—including dishes and blouses—will be on store shelves. "The whole thing is exciting, but surreal. Especially since the dog took me about five minutes to draw." No time at all for a man to find himself a profitable best friend.

JOHN BIRCH



Phillips's posters and this plush pooch are big in Japan

Hockey | Puck rock

Except things in get a bit blurry when a team of Ottawa politicians took off against a group of Canadian rockers in the charity event *Puck Rockin' the Capital* in Gatineau, Que., on Feb. 23. Here's how we see the drama unfolding up

THE HOCKEY HARMIES THE ROCK ROCKS



Peter MacKay's team captain has shown a willingness to play a little dirty.



But Robert's Ben Cuddeback will turn heads with his explosive speed.

RIGHT WING

CENTRE

Jim Munton's Rockies with Ottawa's other captain is a fine cricketer—an art perfected as one of Ontario's sides.

Scott's Chris Murphy putting this unassuming front man on skates could prove dangerous.

LEFT WING

Seneca Mills brought the Pop and Mike Jagger in Toronto. Can Toronto MP score a hat trick?

The Cowboy Jinked Peter Timmins a chance for the dreamer in Mike's skate. Murphy's skates.

DEFENCE

David Price: The defence minister is a two-time star skater. Matters here are often in the hands of the defence minister. With the Senators MP call is an aide to impression. He has—so he did three years ago for a radio interview in Vancouver?

Jason Proulx: The former Wallabies head man and underdog player from Regina will need to stay tough on the Blue Line. Not by Ghossein, Kye, Cat, push rocks are the team's defenses—by choice.

Listing | Cirque comes to town

The Cirque du Soleil is the world's most famous circus. Cirque du Soleil is celebrating with high-flying performances at its Golden Show in Vancouver's Strathcona on May 1, and at the City Centre on June 24. Cirque's acrobatic shows are in Toronto on Aug. 12.



John Intini starts a sentence ...
Pinchas Zukerman finishes it

Pinchas Zukerman is considered one of the greatest violinists ever. Born in Israel, he picked up the instrument when he was seven and later studied at New York City's Juilliard School. He is also a world-renowned conductor and the music director of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra. Zukerman, 55, recently finished Maclean's Assistant Editor John Intini's sentence:

I'D LOVE TO MASTER... ...violin. I love playing, but I think it's too late for me. I don't think I'll ever be able to learn. **Pinchas Zukerman** says: At my age, my **DEADLINE** is... goes back to my childhood. I really like the sound of the Jewish poems, including **Hayyim Nahman Bialik**. I also love some of the staff at **James Joyce** wrote: **A GIFTED STUDENT...** ...has an inclination toward the music and physical beauty. I also look for

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1. **BEFORE** comes a little **Amorale** thought. It's the National Arts Centre on Art 107 and 1/2.
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understanding, which is something that is hard to explain. Simply put, a great artist has his own voice and that is something that is uncontrollable.

I'M MOST COMFORT WHEN... I know enough about a given subject. In the arts, 99.9 per cent has to do with knowledge.

IF I WAS TOMORROW... I would be a miserable human being. But people aren't born with a disaster that makes them tomorrow. They just don't realize that part of their brain. Being some deaf is an acquired, unfortunate social behaviour.

WEDDING A BOW ME... is something I used to do. I don't wear any type of the new. It was a new name. Whenever I got a new tie, I'd always get it dirty while I was wearing dinner.

FOR MORE "TAUGH THE SENTENCES" VISIT WWW.MACLEANS.COM/CPCE

Books | Crossing the American Rubicon

Most Americans, according to Chalmers Johnson's *The Sorrows of Empire* (Penguin), do not recognize that the U.S. dominates the globe through its military power. That makes them, writes the author, "distinct from other peoples on this Earth." Johnson, a retired academic and former CIA adviser, is not overly concerned about American power. His well-written and alarming book is for a nation he professes to be concerned with the effect of American imperialism on the American republic. As that regard, he's part of a long anti-military tradition in his nation climbing back through Theodore's warning against the military-industrial complex to Winston Churchill's warning against the country's more than 120 foreign bases, including Central American gunboats established after 9/11 and many others created worldwide since the terrorist attacks, and concludes that the U.S. has already become the New Roman Empire.



Best Sellers

Fiction

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. THE KILL MACHINE, Neil Brown (25) | 10 |
| 2. ASSASSIN'S PRINCE, John L. Carr (25) | 2 |
| 3. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 3 |
| 4. THE FIRE PRINCE, Michael Chabon (25) | 4 |
| 5. THE SPY, Michael Chabon (25) | 5 |
| 6. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 6 |
| 7. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 7 |
| 8. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 8 |
| 9. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 9 |
| 10. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 10 |

Non-Fiction

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 1 |
| 2. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 2 |
| 3. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 3 |
| 4. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 4 |
| 5. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 5 |
| 6. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 6 |
| 7. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 7 |
| 8. THE CROWN OF THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, Markus (25) | 8 |
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People | Dubliners with a California vibe

The five members of the *Thrills* have known each other since they were kids in Dublin. They've lived together in California, and all of them have only female siblings. So it's no surprise that when Connor Deasy, Daniel Ryan, Fíadhna McMahon, Kevin Hession and Brenna Cavanagh—aged 24 to 30—enter a room, there's a real brotherly vibe, complete with teasing and roughhousing. At a photo shoot, they pick up Hession (the smallest and oldest of the band) and swing him around by his arms and legs, much to his dismay. But when separated they show nothing but pride and respect for each other. "When we were in California, Kevin started writing jokes for one of the biggest Christmas cartoon companies," says Ryan. "If the band hadn't got together he could probably

have made it as a comedian."

After their California excursion—four months in San Diego in 1999, four months in San Francisco 2000—the friends moved home, got a record deal, but it got smothered, went to L.A. and recorded their debut release, *So Much for the City*. With its swirling sound and lyrics, the album has drawn comparisons to the Beach Boys, but the band argues listeners to go past that. "The lyrics are pretty miserable," says vocalist and principal songwriter Deasy. "They reflect a really shy inner—it was hard for us to get a new record deal. That's why the music is upbeat—they're escaping pop songs we

Deasy (left), Ryan, Hession, McMahon and Cavanagh are the brotherly band, the Thrills

“
The group's first CD, *So Much for the City*, spent seven weeks at the top of the Irish charts

wrote to pick us up.”

They certainly weren't ahead of anyone when *So Much for the City* was released last summer and sat at No. 1 on the Irish charts for seven weeks. It hasn't caught on as quickly in North America, so the band members are

working hard on the road, raising their profile. They've also started recording a second album in order to appease investors from back home. Inland, they say, will always be a priority. “We kind of wrote a record about getting out of our little hometown,” says Deasy, “and now we realize we really love Dublin, and whenever we have a chance we like to go home.” **SANDRA BUCHHEIT**

Music | How cool are those pastel-coloured suit jackets?

Naysayers who believe that '80s electro-funk died with the collapse of the Berlin Wall—and the explosion of New Edition shortly after *Stacy* Brown's departure—have yet to hear *Chronese*, the Most credit duo who are bringing the genre back from the grave. Comprising former hip-hop producers Dave 1 (real name, Dave Muckelbauer) and P-Flopp (real name, Patrick Carmichael), the band pays homage to the *Me Decade* on its debut, *She's in Control* (Vice), by name-checking super-fresh Rick James and creator of white-boy soul, Stacy Lewis. The album is bound to inspire a mad rush on pastel-coloured suit jackets with three-quarter-length sleeves or, at least, a brocade-cum-revival. And *Chronese* (the name, says Dave 1, is a subtext with a sense of retro-futuristic romance—a combination of “dystopia” and “Romance”) is fine with that. “Everything I listen to is from '83 to '87,” says P-Flopp, 26. “Dave's the rock guy with the smart, poetic lyrics.”

True friends for over a decade, the two met in junior high and began playing together in various bands, running Montreal's club circuit. In 2001, renowned Montreal DJ Tiga, head of Tarbo Recordings, asked them to cut a record. “We didn't know what to do,” says Dave 1, now 25. “So he sat us down at his house and played us records. He schooled us, but we still didn't know what we were going to sound like. He said, ‘Do what comes naturally.’”



Dave 1 (left) and P-Flopp are stuck in an '80s time warp and loving it

So we did.” Although Dave 1 has since moved to New York City to pursue a Ph.D. in French literature, the two visit each other frequently and plan on recruiting a live backing band—“the Chroneseers”—for their upcoming tour. “We'd love to be like Hall & Oates,” Dave 1 explains. “Say what you want about them, but no one ever questioned their authenticity. Hopefully, we'll be around long enough that no one will question ours either.” **JONATHAN BOUTIN**



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ANOTHER UNITY CRISIS?

Paul Martin says he has 'different views' on Quebec. Let's hear them.

"LET US UNDERSTAND that the gods never justify the means," Paul Martin told the House of Commons during the second day of the sponsorship-related firestorm last week. "National unity in this country is going to be protected by thousands of Canadians who stand up for their country. It will not be protected by people who violate the laws of this land."

I couldn't agree more. Canadians should always be standing up for their country. Martin's one now.

"We're not going to reverse the Constitution," Jean Lapierre told a television interviewer last week. "We're going to solve problems in a completely pragmatic way. If we just repeated the constitution of 1867, that would already be something."

Lapierre is important because he will be Martin's Quebec lieutenant if the Liberals win the next election. If words have any meaning, then Lapierre was trying the constitution of 1867 (he isn't been reported yet). Generally in Quebec, when somebody says the constitution is being violated, they mean the federal government is encroaching on the province's business—mostly health and education. This complaint is unique to Quebec; you sometimes hear it in every corner of the country. But in Quebec it's been at the centre of the political debate for decades.

So does Martin's federal government plan to scrap spending billions of dollars on health and education? Not as far as I can tell, when it laid out its plans in this month's Throne Speech, there were chapters on a "Partnership for a Healthy Canada" and "Leading Learning."

So did Lapierre mean anything? It's hard to know. So far I had to know much about Martin's plans for Quebec, as far as the day-to-day operation of the complex federation that is Canada. That's because Martin's version of the national unity strategy from Christian Clark places after the 1995 referendum the 1995 referendum have already been dismantled. "What will replace them? Hard to say."



Christie's plan for saving the economy after 1995 can be summed up in as little as four words: *Stop Paul Martin*. Martin's plan is a sacred record. Gagliano was the minister in charge of reviewing the federal government's visibility in Quebec. The auditor general has had choice words about the way he did it. Now Gagliano is out of a job. Martin cancelled the sponsorship program on his first day in prime minister's Good.

Don't forget to write letters to your questionable claims from Quebec separatist leaders. He helped lead a legal challenge to the Parti Québécois' plan for unilateral secession. Today Don is out of cabinet and there is a vague settler in Martin's Ottawa. That Don's letters were "confidential." As far as the product of the legal challenge, the Clarity Act, Lapierre says it's "incomplete." Martin's plan to say that while he doesn't think the act is useless, he doesn't plan to use it.

The TV interviewer last week asked Lapierre: Is Don an asset for Liberals in Quebec? Lapierre replied, with a smile, "If he is"—he used to be.

Well then, Gagliano gone, Don gone. Good news and bad news. What replaces them?

The question arises because this can be a difficult country to hold together. Most of our prime ministers have faced a serious national unity crisis while in office. Robert Borden and Mackenzie King faced crises over military conscription during the First and Second World Wars. Lester Pearson had to manage Charles de Gaulle's "Vive le Québec Libre" speech in 1967. Pierre Trudeau had the 1970 October Crisis and the 1980 referendum. Brian Mulroney had Meech Lake. Chrétien had the 1995 referendum.

Given that track record, it's optimistic at best—many at worst—for a prime minister to hope he can avoid yet another crisis by relying on his charming disposition. Yet is for as I can tell this is Martin's plan.

Last week Martin told separatist Christie kept him in the dark about national unity matters because he had "different views on Quebec." Great. Different how? Martin's only explanation was that he has always believed "the best way to ensure national unity was to accomplish great goals" and to "build a consensus."

Goals as great as winning a world war? Starting a national pension system? Repatriating Canada's constitution? Ending a generation of deficit spending? King, Pearson, Trudeau and Christie stepped right into the national unity quagmire while they were accomplishing those goals. If Martin has plans suddenly more exciting than these, I haven't heard them.

Christie's national-unity strategy was heroic and audacious in equal measure. Martin has the good and the bad with a happy face. "Different views" on Quebec? Let's hear them.

To comment: backpage@maclean.ca
Send Paul Wells' address: "Toronto, Ont."
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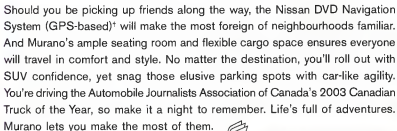
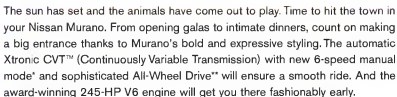
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